Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-179 *18 September 1989*

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Cuba

Further on Tripartite Commission Meeting

Castro Meets With Delegations

FL1509113189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Last night, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met with the participants of the Fifth Regular Session of the Joint Tripartite Commission that is studying the fulfillment of the peace agreements on southwestern Africa.

Fidel talked with the Cuban, Angolan, and South African delegations, as well as the United Nations representatives that are present at the regular work session being held in Havana. Also present were the Soviet and U.S. observers.

Throughout Wednesday and Thursday [13-14 September], the participants held two work sessions at the Palace of Conventions.

Decolonization Discussed

FL1509114289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Today, the Fifth Regular Session of the Joint Tripartite Commission—which is made up of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa—will hold its third and final meeting. The meeting will begin at 0900. The commission began its meetings on 13 September in Havana's Palace of Conventions.

Delegations from the Soviet Union, United States, and United Nations are attending the meeting as observers. The joint tripartite commission is studying the fulfillment of the southwest African peace agreements.

According to sources close to the meeting, yesterday's morning session entailed an eight-point agenda. Although these points were not revealed, it has been stated that one of the main points is the decolonization process for Namibia.

Official sources told PRENSA LATINA that, with regard to the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435, it is probable that the joint commission will hold an extraordinary meeting next month [October].

Press Release Issued

FL1509230789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2232 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] The fifth meeting of the Angola-Cuba-South Africa joint commission issued this afternoon a press release which sums up its activities at this capital's Palace of Conventions. The document notes that the delegations discussed a detailed agenda mainly related to their respective responsibilities in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 for Namibia's independence, in line with the agreements on southwest Africa signed last December.

According to the press release, the parties presented their views on the progress of the development of the plan for the independence of the Namibian territory. The problems and difficulties to reach this goal were also discussed. Their solution should be given priority because the meeting took place only 6 weeks before elections in Namibia.

The press release reported that the participants of the tripartite meeting, which just ended in our capital, agreed to hold the next meeting in South Africa at a yet to be determined date.

The document notes that during the Havana meeting, matters regarding security of the People's Republic of Angola were discussed and information was given on the plan of the return of Cuban troops.

The delegations present at the fifth tripartite meeting reaffirmed their willingness to work for the strictest fulfillment of the commitments assumed by each one of the parties. Cuba, Angola, and South Africa, as well as the U.S. and Soviet observers, the group of UN guests, and the representative of the UN secretary general recognized the facilities provided by our government for the meeting.

Alarcon Speaks to Press

FL1509215889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2102 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] This afternoon, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon gave a detailed report on the extensive analysis made at the fifth meeting of the joint Angola-Cuba-South Africa tripartite commission on the situation in Namibia.

At the meeting, Cuba made a call for the end of the campaign of intimidation and threats to the population in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution, and the dismantling of the South African repressive force in Namibia.

Another subject being discussed by the participants of the tripartite meeting is the electoral project of the South African administrator in Namibia described by the Cuban vice minister as one fit for grammar school. Our country's delegation also asked for changes in the activities of Administrator General Louis Pienaar for next 6 November elections.

In remarks made to the press, Alarcon said Cuba asked for each voter to exercise his right secretly in the Namibian elections. He also noted that the Cuban delegation rejected the idea of the South African administrator in Namibia of counting the votes in a centralized place instead of in each electoral college as it is usually done.

Regarding the electoral legislation, the Cuban vice foreign minister said Cuba opposed Pienaar's project and said the installation of the Namibian Assembly and its work methods are up to that organ once it is elected in a sovereign way. He also asserted that the members of the Angola-Cuba-South Africa tripartite commission extensively analyzed the chain of interventions in the Angolan nation even by countries present in the Havana meeting.

During the third [as heard] tripartite meeting that is scheduled to end in this capital today, Cuba denounced the criminal actions of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] bands against our internationalist troops. The recent murder of six Cubans by UNITA forces was noted. UNITA has the support of the United States, which is an observer at the tripartite meetings.

Alarcon said our country hopes that South Africa fulfills its commitments in the plan for Namibia's independence. He asserted that the only one in charge of supervising the 6 November elections in Namibian territory is the United Nations, although Cuba expects to have an observer mission in that country.

Finally, it was announced that the sixth regular meeting of the tripartite commission will be held in South Africa in November but the participants and observers may be in Namibia before the elections.

More on Alarcon's Remarks

FL1509235589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2305 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] During sessions of the joint tripartite commission held in this capital, the Cuban delegation highlighted the need to implement measures to prevent fraud in Namibia's November elections. This was said by Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon in a news conference today. Alarcon, who was part of the Cuban delegation to the meeting, said the members of the commission made a very detailed review of the electoral process to guarantee the people's free exercise to vote.

He said Namibia's domestic situation was analyzed during the fifth meeting, which began at the Palace of Conventions on 13 September. Alarcon added that a civilized and constructive tone prevailed during the discussions.

Speaking to Cuban and foreign reporters, Alarcon said the secret vote needs to be guaranteed, and illiterate voters should not be pressured to vote for parties favored by South Africa.

Finally, the Cuban vice foreign minister warned:

[Begin Alarcon recording] We also expressed our opposition to the proclamation on the constituent assembly that the general administrator has drafted since it is a document that limits considerably the authority of the organ. In our opinion, this organ would be a depository of the Namibian sovereignty after the November elections. It is not acceptable that its functions, tasks, responsibilities, operation, and establishment be determined by the general administrator. [end recording]

Resolution Focus of Meeting

FL1609013289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The fifth regular meeting of the joint commission created as a result of the Brazzaville Protocol of 13 December 1988 ended its sessions at Havana's Palace of Conventions this afternoon. Attending the meeting were delegations from the governments of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cuba, and the Republic of South Africa—members of the commission—and of the United States of America and the USSR, who acted as observers. Representatives of the UN Transitional Assistance Group and of the UN secretary general in Namibia also attended as guests.

A press release was issued at the end of the meeting. It was learned that the analysis of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 for Namibia's independence and the intervention in the domestic affairs of the People's Republic of Angola were the focus of the debates among the countries that signed the New York agreements to put a political end to the southwest Africa conflict.

Regarding the upcoming elections in Namibia, Cuba and Angola defended views that, because of their nature, force South Africa to modify the electoral bill for the elections which will end the illegal occupation of the last colony in southern Africa. Cuba demanded that the vote be secret and that the voters cast their ballots in the places where they are registered. Likewise, it said illiterate voters should be helped by their relatives and not by the electoral college. According to the South African bill, the counting of votes would be done in a centralized location. The Cuban side demanded that it be done in the place where the voting takes place to prevent possible fraud.

The document drafted by Pretoria gives power to the Namibian administrator over the constitutent assembly which would result from the elections. This violates the UN resolution and was firmly denounced by Cuba in the tripartite sessions which ended today.

[Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, identified by caption] "During the discussions, the South African part gave its assurances that the process that began with last year's agreements has an irreversible nature, that it will do everything possible to guarantee that the process—from now until the November elections and the elections proper—develop in line with international rules, in an acceptable way to the international community, to guarantee the holding of free and just elections in November."

It is known that South Africa, against the letter and principles of Resolution 435 and the tripartite agreements, has used in Namibia methods of force and all resources available, even transferring to the police members of the paramilitary bands called (kufos) trained by the racist regime to combat the South-West African People's Organization and repress the population.

[Alarcon] "There is no other alternative than the immediate dissolution of this group. We hope that the South Africans will take the absolutely unavoidable steps they have to take so that they immediately comply with this demand."

The Angolan delegation presented a detailed report on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola attacks and the participation of the (kufos) and the Namibian police in actions inside Angolan territory.

The Angolan counterrevolutionary organization recently killed several Cuban internationalist soldiers who were not carrying out combat missions. The Cuban Government denounced this to the UN secretary general. Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon said:

[Alarcon] "As you know, when we denounced this act, and we noted the political and moral responsibility of the United States, in particular. The United States continues to support these bands. Even if they were not the one that killed our comrades, mutilated them, etc, they have an unavoidable moral responsibility for such barbaric actions to continue to take place. They were carried out by a group that only counts on this planet with the present U.S. support."

Commentary on U.S. Aid to Nicaraguan Opposition

PA1709034589 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Sep 89

["Our America" commentary—read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] After lengthy discussions and unsubstantial commitments, the Nicaraguan opposition parties reached an agreement on a presidential ticket for the 25 February 1990 elections. The Nicaraguan Government advanced the election date to show its flexibility and desire to achieve stable peace in Central America.

It was very difficult for the Nicaraguan opposition groups to temporarily set aside ambitions for power and attempts to obtain a better share of U.S. support. Political parties in Nicaragua, which lack internal support, survive more because of the encouragement and publicity they receive from Washington and the multinational news agencies than because of support from the masses.

After painful discussions that included acrimonious verbal confrontations, Violeta Chamorro and Virgilio Godoy emerged as presidential candidates. However, they will have to juggle to maintain a precarious unity, in detriment to individual leadership aspirations.

Meanwhile, the United States plans to support the pre-electoral campaign of the Chamorro-Godoy duo with $3 million. According to THE WASHINGTON POST, the White House will ask Congress for a larger sum—$6 million.

This intervention in the Nicaraguan elections follows 10 years of financial and military support to the mercenary bands that have tried unsuccessfully to overthrow the Sandinist government, legally installed after totally clean elections. Due to the failure of the militaristic option as a result of the defeat suffered by the contras in the Nicaraguan mountains, Washington now has decided on a combination of dirty work through the CIA and public financial aid to the opposition's presidential ticket.

It is not by chance that Chamorro is planning a trip to the United States to meet with representatives of the Bush adminstration, congressmen, and executives of the so-called National Endowment for Democracy. The financial aid for Nicaraguan oppossition candidates will be channeled through that organization, as a continuation of its work to foster the antigovernment daily LA PRENSA and minority anti-Sandinist groups.

All this is in addition to insistent pressure from the U.S. delegation at the United Nations designed to increase UN influence in the supervision of the Nicaraguan elections and its participation in the Central American peace process. According to reports, Washington is reportedly trying to make the UN Security Council directly responsible for the international contingents that will demobilize the Nicaraguan contras and those who will verify the suspension of aid to irregular groups in Central America. In that manner, the UN secretary general would have less control over those forces, while the Security Council—where the United States has veto power—will relieve Perez de Cuellar from that responsibility. In reality, the White House wants to extend the mercenaries' mobilization capacity to use them against Nicaragua should the results of the upcoming February elections not be to its liking. Undoubtedly, the United States is trying to exert as much influence as possible in Nicaragua's current events, clearly violating that country's right to self-determination.

Ethiopian President Says Good-bye to Military

FL1609122589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1106 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam described the assistance rendered by Cuban internationalists in defense of Ethiopia as a historic page that future generations will always remember. In saying good-bye to Brigade General Manuel Perez Hernandez, chief of Cuba's military mission in Addis Abbaba, Mengistu recalled the difficulties his country experienced, and Cuba's support at that time. The Ethiopian leader expressed his most profound feeling of gratitude on behalf of his people, party, and government, as well as his commitment to continue strengthening relations between the two states.

For his part, the chief of the Cuban military mission said that all of our country's internationalist combatants are returning to their place of birth with the unforgettable memory of having lived for more than 10 years with the Ethiopians.

Assistance Officially Ends

FL1609180889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Report by Josefa Busi from Luanda, Angola]

[Text] The last contingent of the Cuban military mission in Ethiopia departed from the Addis Abbaba airport yesterday via Luanda at 1700 local time, 1000 Cuban time. Cuban military assistance to Ethiopia, which began 12 years ago at the request of President Mengistu Haile Mariam, ended with the departure of this last group.

The return of this contingent brings "Operation Solidarity" to a brilliant conclusion. This operation began on 8 September after bilateral and sovereign agreements were signed by the governments of Cuba and Ethiopia. Not a single Cuban soldier remains in Ethiopia but the teachings, solidarity, and brotherhood which united our two peoples for many years still remains.

Since 8 September, when the return of Cuban internationalists began, the technology and installations used by our troops have been gradually and systematically turned over in complete combative readiness to the Ethiopian Defense Ministry.

Yesterday afternoon, in the province of Dire Dawa in Ogaden, the principle force of our mission, the Third Tank Brigade, was handed over to Ethiopia. At 1000 local time today in Addis Abbaba, the agreements were signed for the total and complete handing over of all of Cuba's means and equipment to the Ethiopian Armed Forces. [Brigade General] Manuel Perez Hernandez, chief of the Cuban military mission here, and Major General (Abbe Marian Huarte), vice minister of the Ethiopian Armed Forces, were present during the official ceremony.

Meanwhile, the local press of Addis Abbaba stressed the meeting between President Mengistu Haile Mariam, Brig Gen Perez Hernandez, and Cuban Ambassador Antonio Perez Herrero.

Antigua

PRC To Open Embassy; Relations Expanded

FL1609131889 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] China will soon open an embassy in Antigua, following an increase in economic relations between the two countries. A meeting between Prime Minister Vere Bird and Chinese diplomat Li Zongging resulted in an agreement to establish the mission. The two nations established diplomatic relations in 1983 and since then have conducted several development projects together. Most of the projects have involved Chinese technical aid for Antiguan agriculture.

Bahamas

Government Not To Import U.S. Toxic Waste

FL1509182589 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] The Bahamian Government has reversed its decision to use toxic waste from the United States to burn as fuel in a cement plant. The Bahamian health minister made the announcement in Parliament yesterday. Earlier this year the Bahamian Government had accepted an offer from the Summit Cement Corporation in the U.S. to import 100,000 tons of industrial waste for use as fuel.

Nation Suspends Official Contact With Panama

FL1609133289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1322 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Sept 16, CANA—The Bahamas has suspended all official contact with the Republic of Panama, the TRIBUNE newspaper here reported. The move came after a new regime headed by supporters of strongman General Antonio Noriega was set up in Panama, ignoring Organisation of American States and other interests which were seeking a peaceful solution to the Panamanian political crisis.

Panama's troubles date back to the last general election, when the opposition claimed it was cheated out of victory by Noriega's supporters. The elections were cancelled.

The TRIBUNE quoted a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here as saying the Bahamas Government is seriously concerned about the failure of the parties in the Panamanian electoral crisis to arrive at a negotiated solution by September 1, the constitutional deadline for the transfer of power in Panama.

"The government of the Bahamas is not satisfied that the regime which ... assumed power in Panama is reflective of the democratic expression of the Panamanian people," a Bahamas information service statement said, "nor is the Bahamas Government satisfied that the new regime represents a solution negotiated by all parties to the Panamanian electoral crisis.

"The Bahamas Government maintains no diplomatic relations with Panama and in view of the new developments now obtaining in that country, the Bahamas suspends all official contact with Panama."

Bahamian Government officials say that the refusal of those in power in Panama to recognise the democratic will of the people is contrary to the Bahamas with its tradition and history of democratically elected governments.

Results of Government Report on Drug Trafficking

FL1509194789 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] The minister of national security, the Honorable Paul Adderley, tabled a 90-page report on the traffic in cocaine and marijuana affecting the Bahamas in 1987 and 1988 in the House of Assembly this week. The report was prepared by the Ministry of National Security. Elaine Ferguson reports on some of the finding.

[Ferguson] In the introductory pages, the report says that, with no abatement in the supply of cocaine and marijuana from Colombia, and of marijuana from Jamaica, and the ease with which it can be smuggled by boat from the remote islands and cays of the Bahamas, the Government of the Bahamas recognizes that its territory will continue to be violated by Colombian, Jamaican, and United States narcotic trafficking organizations with no end in sight.

It is estimated that about 33 percent of the cocaine entering comes in through Florida, and that about one-third of that transits the Bahamas through the air delivery and transport-to-boat method. But according to the report, the use of aircraft to smuggle marijuana from Colombia to the Bahamas for transport to Florida-based boats at airstrips or via air drops has steadily declined in recent years in favor of cocaine smuggling.

In 1987, a strategy was formulated on the premise that no meaningful action or dialogue was underway in Colombia that would even begin to reduce the movement of Colombian cocaine and marijuana from the Bahamas to Florida. The strategy is based on the principle that the illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs cannot stand up to effective enforcement. Also in 1987, a mutual legal assistance treaty between the Bahamas and the United States was signed. This treaty is expected to be concluded before the end of this year.

The report says it is well known that narcotic and psychotropic drug trafficking, wherever it exists, is a prime corrupter of police and the criminal justice system. From the 1st of January to the 31st of December 1988 in the Bahamas 20,620 lbs of cocaine and 19,587 lbs of marijuana were seized and 1,277 persons arrested and charged. According to the Ministry of National Security's report, there are reports that the threat of sentences up to life has begun to deter trafficking through the Bahamas overall.

In its conclusion, the report says for the moment it would seem there is nothing the power and might of the United States can do in the South American producing countries to even make a start in bringing illicit coca and cocaine production under control. But it said that this must come to an end soon.

Dominican Republic

Government To Extradite Basque Leaders

FL1609183589 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1646 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Madrid, 16 Sep (NOTIMEX)—It was reported here today that the Dominican Republic is willing to let Spain extradite the leaders of the Basque separatist organization. The government of President Joaquin Balaguer has sent a communique to the Spanish Government announcing the possible extradition of six of that group's leaders who are in the Dominican Republic and who were previously deported to Spain.

The document refers to statements made by Spanish President Felipe Conzalez, who said that it would not be a bad idea to ask for the return of the Basque separatists who are residing in several countries, primarily Latin American countries. In his remarks, Felipe Gonzalez said that it is important to renew a consensus between the political parties in his country so that new measures against terrorism can be taken.

Grenada

U.S. Officer's Killer Dead of Hypertension

FL1509164389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1548 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Sept 15, CANA—A Vincentian cop who went on the rampage in Grenada last July appears to have died from hypertension, probably aggravated by injuries to the head and the circumstances at the time, according to Dr R Chandu Lal, a Trinidad based forensic pathologist.

Dr. Lal, acting on behalf of the family, conducted an examination on the body of Crofton Bascombe, Grenada's assistant commissioner of police, on secondment from the St Vincent Police Force.

Bascombe ran amok at police headquarters in St George's. He shot and killed Commissioner of Police Cosmos Raymond and John Butler, political officer of the United States Embassy. He also shot and wounded deputy commissioner of police, Collis Barrow, and assistant superintendent of police, Daniel Searles, before he was arrested and confined in a police cell.

After he was found dead in the cell, Dr Robert Hannon, a pathologist attached to the Grenada General Hospital, diagnosed that Bascombe, who was known to be suffering from hypertension, had died from "cardiac arrest."

Bascombe's family had not been satisfied with this and, through Grenadian Barrister Anslem Clouden, arranged for Dr Lal to perform an independent examination of the body. His report, released by Clouden yesterday, indicates findings close to those reported by Hannon. According to a report issued by government, Hannon found a wound about 1.5 inches near the left eye. There

was also a bruise and a cut on the left cheekbone and concussion on the left side of the head. Preliminary reports had said these were consistent with a fall.

Prime Minister Blaize has announced his intention to appoint a one-man commission to probe the circumstances of Bascombe's death, but in an interview, Clouden said: "What is needed is a quasi-judicial inquiry and a coroner's inquest".

Killer Apparently Beaten

FL1509181589 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Forensic studies indicate a police official who died in custody after going on a shooting spree in Greneda died from hypertension following a severe beating. A pathologist says Crofton Bascom had extremely high blood pressure which aggravated the injuries to the head he sustained when he was apparently beaten in prison. Bascom was jailed [words indistinct] Police Commissioner Cosmos Raymond on the 28th of June. He was later found dead in his cell of cuts, bruises, and concussions in the head.

Leftist Reportedly Harassed by British Police

FL1609125289 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] The leader of Grenada's Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement has protested what he calls harassment by British police following a trip to Libya. Terrence Marryshow says he and two other movement members were detained at London's Heathrow Airport after returning from Libya. He charges that the detentions were racially motivated, noting his fellow detainees were largely black, Asian, or Arabic. Mr Marryshow made his protest in a letter to Graham Roberts, local representative of the Barbados-based British High Commission.

Haiti

PSCH Leader Holds News Conference 12 Sep

FL1509212389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Haitian Social Christian Party [PSCH] leader Gregoire Eugene has moved his party's headquarters from Port-au-Prince to Cap-Haitien. One of our reporters present at the news conference Mr Eugene held yesterday will give us an account of the news conference.

[Unidentified reporter] In a 12 September news conference at party headquarters on Jeremie Square, Mr Gregoire Eugene announced that the headquarters of the PSCH has been moved. The PSCH is setting up its central headquarters in Cap-Haitien. It will have an office in Port-au-Prince for electoral strategy and other business on which Mr Eugene choose not to elaborate.

Mr Eugene also said at the news conference that given the current authoritarian government, Haiti is heading for the disaster of a dictatorship without limits. General Avril has gathered the three branches of government in the palm of his hand. He issues decrees whenever he pleases and applies them whenever he pleases. No one can say a word to him about it.

The PSCH leader said that 1 year of the Avril government in power equals the sound of bullets all day and all night, insecurity, and a very high cost of living. One thing that appears illogical and that no one can understand is that people are starving to death all over Haiti. Meanwhile, somehow, the governor of the central bank is being paid $10,000 per month. Things in Haiti are so topsy turvy now that the very people that the Haitian people did not want after 7 February 1986 are the people leading the country today. What's worse, they have even threatened political leaders, (?implying) that they should not even entertain the idea of leading this country. Listen.

[Begin Eugene recording] Meanwhile, there is a danger. Listen carefully! Until the political situation is normalized, there is the danger of a dictatorship hanging over Haiti. [passage omitted]

We don't have a void in Haiti in regard to the Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections or municipal officials. [passage omitted] There is a void at the executive level. There is a de facto government which does not represent the national sovereignty. There are no legislative chambers. So what happens? The current government is responsible for the three branches of government. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mr Eugene also denounced the government media, which have forgotten their principal job and are effecting propaganda for the government, just as under Duvalier.

In an interview on foreign television, the head of the current Haitian Government said that all the Haitian political leaders do is criticize. To give the lie to this statement, Mr Eugene made a few proposals regarding the crisis Haiti is traversing. He said all social initiatives should be accompanied by an economic initiative. Thus, the National Office for Community Education and Literacy is a bluff, because the Haitian people are hungry and don't have time to sit down to read and write.

He also asked that certain big salaries be reduced, such as those paid at the central bank, Teleco [Telecommunications d'Haiti, the national telephone company], and Minoterie d'Haiti [the national flour mill]. He also said that certain ministries and certain ambassadors who do nothing for Haiti should be removed.

After all these statements, the government station National Haitian Television [TNH], did not hesitate to respond.

[Begin Eugene recording, in progress] ...lack of professionalism, a lack of professional ethics. Television Nationale answered. It sent two people to protest: How can

Gregoire Eugene say that the Commissariat for Overseas Haitians should be shut down?

TNH took my statement out of the context. [passage omitted]

That day, the national television station said that if Gregoire Eugene had a problem to settle with certain officials in the Commissariat, there was a civil court he could go to. A government medium should not make such statements. [end recording]

Mr Eugene said that the PSCH's view of things prevents them from forming an alliance with any political party. He also said that this was not the first time political leaders had formed alliances in Haiti, but that things will change as soon as the electoral process begins.

We remind listeners that this news conference is the PSCH's third since the party was founded in 1979.

Organizations Scheduled To Protest Inflation

FL1509204089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The high cost of living is still the dominant topic in the news in Haiti. A press release was issued yesterday by 17 political and union organizations. These organizations are: Confederation of Haitian Workers, Confederation of Haitian Blue-Collar Workers, Federation of Workers Trade Unions, National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti, National Agricultural and Industrial Party, General and Independent Organization of Haitian Workers, League of Former Haitian Political Prisoners, Concerted Action for Truth [Konbit Verite, KV], National People's Front, Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH], Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH], Confederation for Democratic Unity [KID], Rural Women's Defense League, Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, Mobilization for National Development [MDN], Union of Democratic Patriots, and Saint-Marc Democratic Association for Mutual Support and Solidarity.

These organizations say that the government has made decisions that will further raise the cost of living. The government has chosen to increase the woes and poverty of the entire Haitian people.

The Avril government is suffocating all sectors of the national economy: industry, commerce, agriculture, and public transportation. Consequently, they have all decided to get together and support the decision to engage in a general noise-making session—beating on pots and pans and honking horns—on Monday 18 September in all neighborhoods, all towns, and all rural sections in Haiti.

Also, that day at noon, all laborers, drivers, civil servants, and other workers everywhere are to stop work for 15 minutes.

These actions are a deliberate warning to General Avril's government from the entire Haitian people to demand that it annul all the economic decisions the government has reached in connection with the contract made with the International Monetary Fund at the expense of the Haitian people.

If after this day of protest, the government fails to react positively, the organizations say they will take all necessary measures to call for a general strike.

This is a communique from these 17 organizations.

Regarding this communique, PDCH leader Reverend Sylvio Claude, a signer of the communique, says the 17 organizations demand that the military government rescind its decree. They ask when the government will leave power, and that it transfer power on 7 February 1990. Let's listen to the Rev Sylvio Claude.

[Begin Claude recording] This is the first time that all these organizations have gotten together very quickly, without an official invitation. [passage omitted] This is significant—the very fact all these people were present, with Sylvio Claude and [PUCH secretary general] Theodore and KID and MDN all sitting down together, regardless of their tendencies and ideologies, to deal with a problem that affects the entire nation. This means that there is one point we are all united on, and we are unanimous on this point—and this unanimity is against Avril.

I don't know if the government will understand what this means, for all the nation's forces to get together against a single thing! This is certainly the first time we have achieved such unity on any given matter. [passage omitted]

Avril must take back his decree, and rescind many other agreements he has signed that are not good for the nation. He must set forth his position clearly, so the entire nation will know when he is going to give back the government. We want him to do it on 7 February 1990. Thus, he must figure out a way to do this. [passage including reporter's question omitted]

I just told you, it was extraordinary! All it took was a phone call, and everyone met. Just a telephone call. No one asked me why. The minute I said IMF, everyone was willing to get together. [passage omitted] Even those who were enemies showed up, to sit down together to discuss a situation that simply cannot continue. This proves that when there must be unity among the Haitian people, they will indeed unite. You don't need to kill yourself obtaining it, because when things get to the point where the people can no longer stand it, everyone will get together to do what needs to be done. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Salinas, Bush To Meet Informally 1 Oct

PA1709182989 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari was scheduled to arrive in the United States on 2 October, but Mexican and U.S. sources have confirmed that the Mexican president will attend a dinner that U.S. President George Bush will host at Camp David on 1 October. President Bush wants to hold an informal meeting with the Mexican president without the limitations of protocol.

The official welcome will occur at the White House on 2 October, with the appropriate protocol ceremony and speeches. President Salinas will first meet with President Bush at the Oval Office, and he will later participate in a meeting between Mexican and U.S. Government officials at the Roosevelt Room of the presidential residence.

Government To Continue Aiding Peace Process

PA1609185689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0635 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Sep (AFP)—The Mexican Government will continue to collaborate in the search for "the national pacification and reconciliation" of El Salvador, based on the Esquipulas I and II agreements, as well as the Tela accords, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat announced today.

"The Mexican Government is proud of the trust that the participants demonstrated by their request that this important event take place in Mexico" this week, the Foreign Secretariat continued.

Delegations from the guerrillas and the Salvadoran Government drafted today, at the conclusion of the meeting, the document known as the "Mexico Agreement," with proposals for ending the armed conflict through continuing negotiations for the reunification of Salvadoran society.

Diplomatic Stand on Panama Remains Unchanged

PA1709133289 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 9 Sep 89 p 6-A

[Editorial]

[Text] The words of Fernando Solana, secretary of Foreign Relations, and the stand taken by his office regarding the Panama case could not be more clear-cut: Mexico's position with respect to Panama remains unchanged and Mexico maintains its ambassador in that isthmian nation. As is obvious, our country continues to follow the Estrada doctrine. According to this doctrine, government recognitions are neither denied nor granted; the country limits itself to withdrawing or maintaining the respective diplomatic representative.

Faithful to an impeccable political theory, the practical effects of such a decision do not go unnoticed by attentive citizens. By maintaining Ambassador Carlos Plank in Panama City, our country has abstained from giving the impression of being supportive of other nations' campaigns aimed at destabilizing General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime. Whether he stays in power or moves aside to allow the state apparatus to be reorganized is the sole responsibility of the Panamanians. Therefore, Mexico has refrained from taking action that could be interpreted as disapproval of the actions adopted in the transfer of power.

It was public knowledge that the Secretariat of Foreign Relations had decided to replace the ambassador prior to the controversial and annulled presidential elections. However, with noteworthy caution the Secretariat of Foreign Relations decided to postpone the change of ambassador until things cleared up. Now that tensions have subsided, the Secretariat of Foreign Relations can act more freely and decide if it keeps Plank or appoints a new ambassador. But let us recognize that the obstacle has been overcome. Mexico not only took the right action, but did it respecting its ancient and respectable tradition.

Judges Request Police Protection From Drug Dealers

PA1609042689 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 4 Sep 89 p 11

[Article by Jose del Real]

[Text] Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, 3 Sep —A group of auxiliary judges in this city today demanded police protection in the wake of a wave of threats the judges have received from drug-trafficking groups and after an official was assassinated in a local suburb.

The officials demanded protection from Monterrey Mayor Socrates Rizzo and police authorities to carry out their duties without fear of being attacked by drug dealers.

"We know who the drug traffickers are and where they live, and that is why we need police protection to perform our duties", Sara Crispin, a judge in the Martinez residential area east of Monterrey, said.

The auxiliary judges are City Hall representatives appointed by zones, and they are responsible for compiling complaints and petitions from the public and sending them to the appropriate authorities.

Crispin spoke on behalf of her coworkers at a monthly meeting that took place at noon in the municipal palace of Monterrey, the capital of Nuevo Leon state.

The official recalled that 2 weeks ago Auxiliary Judge Luis Tovar Cedillo was killed by alleged drug dealers a few days after receiving telephone death threats.

Mayor Rizzo said that the judges will be protected, and he commented on talks he held with the state attorney, Francisco Rivera, regarding launching an operation to safeguard the lives of the judges.

Parastate Companies Released From State Control

PA1609222189 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 4 Sep 89 p 11

[Article by Griselda Sierra Valencia]

[Text] Now that the Cananaea Mining Company has declared bankruptcy and the Mexican Aviation Company has been sold, the Federal Government has so far released from state control 55.9 percent of the parastate companies, that is, 482 companies. There are still 380 companies that are in the process of being released, according to available information. The same information also specifies that the goal is a total of 862 enterprises that must be released from state control, according to an analysis by the Center of Economic Studies of the Private Sector (CEESP).

The estimates done by the CEESP are based on information disclosed by the Official Gazette of the Federal Government, by the Secretariats of the Comptroller and of Planning and Budget, and newspapers. The report explains that it was not clearly explained how the program was worked out, how many organizations are subject to being released from state control, the type of work done, and the situation of the enterprises. Therefore, there is no exact information on the progress made by the program.

However, it was learned that from 1987 to date, 482 parastate companies have been released from state control, while 380 are still in the process. Out of these 380, 82 are for sale, 63 are being liquidated, 14 are being eliminated, 9 are being merged, 5 are being transferred, and the fate of 207 is still unknown.

In the CEESP report that UNOMASUNO obtained, it is pointed out that regardless of the many efforts made to release companies from state control, obstacles prevented the enforcement of the program in the last 6-year presidential term.

In the first place, the report pointed out, the state organizations in charge of carrying out the program did not have precise information on the number of organizations participating in the program at the beginning of the 6-year term. While the Secretariats of Finance and of Planning and Budget said there were 1,155 parastate companies, the 1986 presidental report said there were 980, yet the Public Administration Registrar published in November 1982 said there were 849.

To this same effect, the report disclosed that the process of merging, liquidating, eliminating, and transferring the organizations and enterprises are done by means of the Official Gazette, but when the sales are handled among the secretariats, the public hardly finds out about it.

At any rate, the reported added, progress has been made. By 31 December 1987, the government had authorized the denationalization of 626 of the estimated 1,155 parastate enterprises that had existed at the beginning of the past administration. The denationalization process of 368 of these enterprises was concluded as follows: 103 were sold, 112 were liquidated [por liquidacion], 98 were eliminated [por extincion], and 19 were transferred to the states, leaving 258 to be denationalized.

However, when the Economic Solidarity Pact was signed (PASE) late in 1987, the government promised to accelerate the program and authorized releasing another 150 companies, with which the number rose to 776.

From that time to date, the number has risen to 862, and according to the CEESP report, 482 are no longer being run by the state.

There are 380 companies in the process of being released from state control. The CEESP feels that once these goals are met, there will be many less state-run companies, which is good. The public sector has completely withdrawn from the automobile and pharmaceutical branches of production, as well as the production of petroleum by-products, and some manufacturing industries such as bottled soft drinks, textiles, home appliances, dinnerware, and heat-resistant construction materials. There has been partial reduction of companies producing paper bags and containers, cement, steel, sugar and metal products.

In addition, the CEESP has admitted that the process of releasing companies from state control is a difficult process, because the board of directors of some enterprises are resisting the change, and for ideological reasons, some groups would like to continue seeing the government control all economic activity.

The process is also delayed by the need for selling the enterprises at a real value, and the difficulty in finding buyers.

However, the CEESP stresses that what has been achieved shows that the correct thing is being done. It points out that once it is shown in practice that the system of eliminating state ownership is good, when subsidies are reduced and distorted figures are eliminated a new program of private ownership will be launched.

El Salvador

Cristiani Stresses Peace in Independence Speech

PA1509172089 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1515 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Speech by President Alfredo Cristiani on occasion of the 168th anniversary of Salvadoran Independence Day at Libertad Plaza in San Salvador—live]

[Text] President of the honorable Legislative Assembly and deputies; president of the honorable Supreme Court and magistrates; vice president of the Republic; your excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps; members of the cabinet; mayor of San Salvador; honorable religious, civilian, and military authorities; children and young students; Salvadoran people:

With profound civic fervor we commemorate this day, the glorious anniversary of the independence of our fatherland. We pay a sincere homage to the forefathers who gave us our political independence and laid the foundations for our nation.

With patriotic emotion we have come here to pay homage to those, who, moved by a noble desire to be free, worked for our independence and wrote with their brilliant lives the greatest page of our history on 15 September 1821.

One hundred and sixty-eight years after such an extraordinary event, the Salvadoran people are enthusiastically praising the memory of our heroes and expressing their undying gratitude. The patriotic spirit of the idealistic men who overcame gigantic obstacles to forge the birth of El Salvador as a free, sovereign, and independent nation while risking their own lives is reborn in our hearts.

The noble ideals of our nation's forefathers have remained latent in the hearts of our people throughout the past 168 years of independent life. In our republican life, we have gone through very critical and difficult circumstances, which have served to test the resoluteness of those who have had to lead our country's destiny at various times.

We would need a long time to recall the many incidents that have affected the institutional life of our Republic. However, we can categorically say that, even at the most difficult of times, the Salvadoran people have always had the courage, will, and resoluteness to pull through and overcome adversity with a stoic attitude and patriotic devotion that must make all Salvadorans proud.

During this last decade we have experienced one of the most painful and dramatic episodes in our history. In recent years, a fratricidal conflict has spread mourning almost everywhere in our fatherland. The blood of Salvadorans has flooded our land. Like Apocalyptic horsemen, grief, hunger, and misery have knocked at the doors of most homes.

Hatred has taken over hearts. Brothers have killed brothers, disregarding the sacred right to live. Civic, cultural, and spiritual values have been trampled on or lost. Many have mistakenly tried to impose their ideology by fire and sword.

In doing this, they have trampled on the people's right to freely and democratically decide on their future.

Summarizing, during the past 10 years the people have endured a difficult life with a spartan attitude. The people, however, have always been able to count on a brave and heroic Armed Forces and on their patriotic disposition for liberty, a disposition that keeps the people standing tall, with their eyes on the grand objective of building the great and proud fatherland about which our forefathers dreamed.

As we stated earlier this month, when we recall the epics of our political emancipation, we are not only paying homage to the great deeds carried out by our forefathers, we are also acquiring a commitment to struggle now and always for the aggrandizement of the nation by doing our best for the fatherland.

Any action in honor of our forefathers would be incomplete if we did not live by the principles that inspired them in their heroic struggles. For this reason, all Salvadorans have the historic obligation to face this situation by offering our fatherland our physical and intellectual resources.

On this 15 September 1989, we want the Salvadoran people to feel fully optimistic, we want a rebirth of hopes, we want the light of optimism to break through the darkness of pessimism. We want to immediately begin writing, with civic integrity and responsibility, a new and beautiful chapter in our country's history.

On this glorious day, we invite all Salvadorans to set egotism and ideological confrontations aside, and to march together again on the road opened by our forefathers. The fatherland needs now more than ever before our sacrifices and efforts. We have the obligation to defend the fatherland together.

Salvadoran brothers, the grand objective of our forefathers was the political emancipation of the fatherland. Our grand objective is peace, so that all Salvadorans may again live in a climate of social harmony and can add to the nation's progress. In my presidential inauguration speech I said that the search for peace and a rational solution to the conflict would be our grand objective. We said then that we would open the doors to a dialogue with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] to search for overall solutions for the sake of peace and democracy.

Throughout the first 100 days of this national recovery government, we have been saying that peace is our government's top priority and we have made evident that we are working to secure peace. As a result of this political will of our government, and of a positive

response by the FMLN, a first working meeting has taken place in Mexico to create mechanisms and procedures for promoting a permanent, serious, closed-door dialogue process.

The government's dialogue commission and the FMLN representatives have reached important agreements at that initial meeting. This will permit the development of an environment of mutual trust that would permit making progress toward an overall arrangement on the various aspects of the conflict as soon as possible.

Welcoming the dialogue process, we do not want to create unwarranted expectations among the Salvadorans. We prefer to prudently wait and see how events develop. We do want to reiterate that our position is one of openness and flexibility in the framework of the Constitution. We hope that the FMLN's ideological framework does not represent an obstacle to our people securing peace.

We know that the road ahead is difficult and complex. We will most probably confront obstacles; however, we trust in God and in everyone's good will, that we will be able to overcome the problems. The search for peace demands effort and responsibility on the part of every Salvadoran. Aware of this responsibility, we will be able to achieve that great objective: peace.

On this solemn occasion I feel that it is appropriate to reiterate our solidarity with the thousands of Salvadoran brothers who are suffering the effects of extreme poverty. I wish to tell them that the national rescue government is working hard, and with everyone's help and without improvisations or demagoguery, we can begin to eliminate the economic and social unbalance that generates extreme poverty. We have said that those Salvadorans who have something must show their solidarity with those who have nothing or almost nothing. We are fully aware that extreme poverty must be confronted. To ignore the problem would only mean heightening the crisis for the people in general, and we would be sinking our homeland in a situation of unpredictable consequences.

We are fighting extreme poverty in the country with the same passion with which we seek peace. One of the best tributes we can give our forefathers is to fight hard to achieve economic independence and freedom for the poor. To this effect, we are developing various programs within the social rescue plan because we know that political freedoms must be complemented with economic freedoms and social progress. It is imperative that we practice the principle of national solidarity. I wish this were possible as of this day—that we struggle for a society where harmony, solidarity, justice, and constructive work prevail.

On this great day we wish to send a warm greeting to the sister nations of Central America for whom our heroes gave their lives. It is the appropriate time to relive the historic roots of our great land, of that united Central America which was the dream of those illustrious men who wrote 15 September 1821 as an unforgettable date in our calendar. On this solemn occasion we reaffirm before them our conviction in the common future of our peoples and in the nondeferrable search for ways to achieve regional integration that will allow us to find solutions to the great problems burdening us. We trust the day is near when peace, fraternity, and democracy will prevail throughout Central America.

On the 168th anniversary of republican life, we wish to send a greeting to the Salvadoran children and youths. We wish to tell them that they are the main reason for our efforts. We want them to inherit a free homeland. We are filled with special pride seeing how the children, youths, and everyone have renewed their fervor for the civic values of our nation. We are filled with joy to see the rebirth of the Salvadoran people's civic awareness.

We can proudly say that our people's nationalist spirit has spread throughout our country. The pride with which we sing our national anthem, or when we raise our flag and revere our coat of arms in schools, homes, and parades throughout the country, fills us with emotion and great hopes. When a child, teenager, or adult is imbued with the significance of our national symbols, the concept of our nationality is affirmed and sentiments of unity and solidarity throb in the people's hearts.

We want to congratulate all sectors, teachers, students, public and private institutions, and the citizens in general for the display of civic spirit they have shown and will continue to show during this month of our independence and the rest of our lives.

In concluding my message, I would like to tell the Salvadoran people that we are on the threshold of great events for our country's destiny. This is the time for all of us to work together to achieve peace, to defend our independence and freedom, and to promote our economic and social recovery.

Salvadorans, may God guide our steps and may the noble ideas of our forefathers be deepened even more in our hearts.

Let us always remember what the father of our nation, Jose Matias Delgado, used to say: A people fighting for their freedom cannot be defeated. Thank you. God bless you.

Coverage of FMLN, Government Negotiations

'Flexible' 10 Point Agenda

PA1509140089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0700 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Sep (AFP)—Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, member of the political-diplomatic commission of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], said last night that the FMLN and the Salvadoran Government will issue on Friday, 15 September, a final document on the meeting that began here Wednesday [13 September].

Salvadoran Ambassador to Mexico Sigfrido Nunez has reported that the two delegations will meet again Friday morning to announce the results of the meetings.

The FMLN and government delegations have already approved a work calendar, procedures for preparations for other meetings, and church participation, and now, according to what one mediator, Monsignor Gregorio Rosa Chavez, said this evening, they "want to begin discussing important issues."

The prelate said that "the goal is to secure not only a cease-fire, but also an end to the fighting, and that is what we are working on right now."

Very early this morning the delegates were still working on a summary of the two procedural proposals presented on 14 September, a summary that will include "a flexible 10-point agenda," according to Rosa.

On 14 September the FMLN issued a 10-point document urging the Salvadoran Government to organize a meeting to discuss a cease-fire as an "urgent and priority issue." This document calls for bringing "the war to an end by political means as soon as possible," and reaffirms that the dialogue must be of a "permanent nature."

The negotiations were to conclude on Thursday, 14 September, with the publication of a joint communique, but, Rosa Chavez said, the two delegations "feel that current conditions permit much more progress and that it would be good to take advantage of this moment that we view as exceptional."

In the meantime, a commission composed of Oscar Santamaria, representing the Salvadoran Government; and Joaquin Villalobos and Salvador Samayoa, representing the rebels, is drafting a document in which the two sides agree on the procedural framework of the peace process, the prelate reported.

Two days ago the guerrilla movement announced its intention to implement a definitive cease-fire before 15 November and to rejoin civilian life before 31 January, but the new document does not mention this.

Rosa Chavez noted that there will be monthly meetings and that both delegations agree that they should take place in El Salvador as well as in other countries.

Conflict's End Negotiated

PA1509193589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1905 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Sep (AFP)—The Salvadoran Government and guerrillas today agreed to negotiate "to put an end to the armed conflict through a political solution in the shortest possible time," and to meet again within a month to discuss the peace proposal of the FMLN.

At the end of 3 days of talks in the Mexican capital, the two sides said that "they will talk in an effort to reach a negotiated agreement," and also to "promote the country's democratization and to reunite Salvadoran society."

"In this regard, the dialogue is aimed at reaching an agreeement to end hostilities," they explained.

The next meeting will be held in the Costa Rican capital on 16 and 17 October, and they agreed to invite UN and OAS representatives as observers.

The delegations agreed to meet every 30 days in regular sessions "with an interval for consultations and the drafting of proposals." In addition, two representatives of the Catholic Church, appointed by the Episcopal Conference, who will serve as observers and mediators, will also be invited.

The government and the FMLN also agreed that "the political parties and social forces have an important role in the construction of peace," and they agreed to maintain "adequate and permanent channels of information and consultation with them."

The agreement was signed by guerrilla commanders Joaquin Villalobos and Shafik Handal, Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria and Presidency Minister Juan Martinez, and Bishops Gregorio Rosa Chavez and Romeo Tovar Astorga as witnesses.

The communique also expressed thanks to the two clergymen for "their unselfish and patriotic work in the development of this meeting," the first to be held between Alfredo Cristiani's administration and the guerrillas.

Talks Described 'Positive'

PA1509213489 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 2000 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] The negotiations between the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas concluded today in Mexico with an agreement that could be described more as procedural than substantial. This was the fourth meeting between the insurgents and Salvadoran Government representatives, and the first time they met outside Salvadoran territory. It was also the first meeting between representatives from Alfredo Cristiani's regime and the FMLN.

Both delegations described the talks as positive, saying that they could be the starting point in the path to peace in El Salvador, which has withstood 10 years of war. The so-called Mexico Agreement establishes that the dialogue must be used to find a political solution to El Salvador's problems as soon as possible. The dialogue must be permanent, and unilateral withdrawals from the process will not be allowed.

Regarding procedures, it was agreed—among other things—that both delegations will be free to elect their representatives, who will be authorized to make agreements. Sessions will be held every 30 days in accordance with the date, place, and agenda established. The next meeting will be held on 16 and 17 October in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The commissions agreed to invite the Salvadoran church as an observer which, at any given time, may carry out

practical mediation efforts. They also agreed to invite representatives from international organizations to their meetings. Delegations from the United Nations and OAS will be present at the next meeting in San Jose.

To conclude, the government and insurgents thanked the Mexican Government and people for the facilities they offered for the talks.

In subsequent statements, Oscar Santamaria, Salvadoran justice minister and spokesman of the government delegation, asserted that the government delegation will return to El Salvador with optimism.

In addition, the FMLN stated that the main goal it is pursuing will allow the Salvadoran people celebrate the next Christmas and New Year without war and in peace.

Joint Communique Issued

PA1509233789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2000 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Report on "joint communique" issued by the Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front delegations in Mexico City on 15 September]

[Text] The document released at the conclusion of the dialogue meeting between the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN reads as follows:

On 13, 14, and 15 September, the delegations of the Government of the Republic of El Salvador and the FMLN met in Mexico City. The Salvadoran Catholic Church was represented by Msgr Romeo Tovar Astorga and Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez.

The meeting took place in a climate of mutual respect. The agenda was discussed and approved as follows:

1. Methodological concepts and dialogue procedures.

2. Exchange of views regarding the FMLN peace proposal.

3. Agenda and timetable for next meetings.

As a result of the meeting, the Mexico Agreement was signed and published outlining the procedures, dates, and agenda for the next meeting.

The delegations wish to express their gratitude to Msgr Romeo Tovar Astorga and Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez for their unselfish and patriotic efforts during the meeting.

In conclusion, both delegations wish to express our profound recognition to the Mexican Government and people, who contributed to make this meeting possible.

This document is signed by the Salvadoran Government and FMLN delegations.

Parties Sign 'Mexico Agreement'

PA1509234089 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2000 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Report on 'Mexico Agreement' signed by Government and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in Mexico City on 15 September 1989—recorded]

[Text] I: Conceptual framework:

The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] will engage in dialogue in an effort to reach an understanding through negotiations in order to end the armed conflict through political means in the shortest possible time, to promote the country's democratization, and to reunify the Salvadoran society. In this sense, the dialogue is intended to conclude an end to the hostilities.

To achieve these objectives, the dialogue process must have a permanent nature, maximum seriousness, reciprocal guarantees, and tempos of work in keeping with the urgency of achieving peace.

II. Procedural Rules:
1. The appointment of the delegations of the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN is a function of each side. The members of both delegations may be replaced subject to prior notice by one side to the other. The delegations will have the power to conclude agreements.
2. Both delegations, aware of the complexity of the subjects to be discussed, agree to hold rounds of ordinary sessions with 30-day intervals for consultations and drafting proposals. In each session, the date, place, and topics of the next one will be determined.
3. The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN agree to invite two representatives of the Catholic Church selected by the Episcopal Conference with the status of witnesses who will, in addition, make practical mediation efforts.
4. The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN will invite representatives of international organizations to participate as witnesses in any meetings of the dialogue they consider necessary by mutual agreement.
5. The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN agree that the political parties and the social forces of El Salvador have an important role to play in achieving peace. They recognize also that it is necessary that the government and the FMLN maintain adequate and permanent mechanisms for information and consultation with the country's parties and social forces, it being understood that the latter will maintain the necessary confidentiality for the proper development of the dialogue process. Whenever it is deemed necessary, and by mutual accord, representatives of these parties and social forces may be invited in order to receive their contributions.
6. The dialogue meetings will be held wherever the parties decide by mutual agreement.
7. The dialogue will take place with the necessary confidentiality.
8. Both sides commit themselves not to withdraw unilaterally from the dialogue process.

III. Next Meeting:

The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN agree to hold the next meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica on 16-17 October 1989. The subject to be discussed will be a cease-fire based on the government's and FMLN's proposals. Both sides agreed to invite the Organization of American States, OAS, and the United Nations to that meeting and to accredit representatives as witnesses.

The document is signed by the members of the Salvadoran Government and FMLN delegations.

[(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 16 September broadcasts the "text" of the "Mexico Agreement" signed by the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in Mexico City on 15 September. The Radio Venceremos version has been compared to the Radio Cadena YSKL version and found to be identical, with one exception. The final paragraph has been replaced by the following:
Issued: Mexico City, Federal District, 15 September 1989
Signed: For the Salvadoran Government delegation: Colonel Juan Antonio Martinez Varela, Dr Oscar Alfredo Santamaria
For the FMLN delegation: Commander Joaquin Villalobos, Commander Jorge Shafik Handal
Others follow [words indistinct] Abelardo Torres, David Escobar Galindo Galindo, Romeo Tovar Astorga, Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez]

FMLN Proposal 'Preposterous'

PA1609012389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0005 GMT 16 Sep

[Text] Deputy Security Minister Colonel Orlando Montano termed the proposal presented by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in Mexico as preposterous. He added that instead of disappearing, public security corps should augment its forces.

Meanwhile, FMLN Commander Joaquin Villalobos said in Mexico that peace in El Salvador is possible, and that all social forces in the country must struggle to achieve peace. He stressed that the FMLN does not recognize the current Constitution because it is a pact for war. Recalling that the war has resulted in the deaths of more than 70,000 people, he proposed drafting a new constitution.

Rebel Radio on Mexico Agreement

PA1609012689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] We begin by greeting our representatives of the FMLN in Mexico City where substantial agreements have been reached to continue the dialogue and the negotiations.

While a serious attitude regarding the dialogue prevailed in Mexico City, in El Salvador, a warmongering display revealed another face of the warmongers. The national majorities turned out for the peace march, although the Armed Forces did everything to prevent it. Thousands of Salvadorans staged the fourth march for peace today, amid a strong war apparatus, defying the strong security measures, checkpoints, and intimidation by the Armed Forces.

The Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, after the first round of talks held in Mexico City, agreed to hold subsequent meetings on a monthly basis. They accepted the church as mediator and the presence of international observers. They stressed the role to be played by political parties and other social forces and agreed to meet again in mid-October in the capital of Costa Rica to discuss the FMLN proposal.

Ungo, Zamora on Proposals

PA1609121289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Guillermo Ungo, leader of the Salvadoran National Revolutionary Movement [MNR], has said that the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government proposal is a demonstration of its will for a dialogue but not for peace.

Ungo said that the government delegation cannot make decisions and that it first consults with the Armed Forces and the country's economic pillars before making proposals.

In addition, Ruben Zamora, Social Christian People's Movement leader, harshly criticized the government document, which proposed that the delegations meet for only 2 days every 2 months.

Zamora, also a Democratic Convergence leader, said that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] proposal presented specific dates for the achievement of certain objectives, which gives more guarantees to the Salvadoran people.

Rebels View Dialogue

PA1709133089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] In statements to the press, Commanders Jorge Shafik Handal and Joaquin Villalobos have said that the first dialogue meeting was positive, as it made it possible to lay the foundations for substantial negotiations.

Commander Shafik Handal said that the FMLN hopes that Christmas and New Year can be celebrated in peace and that 1990 will be the year when the war ends.

Workers Leave UNOC Following UNTS Alliance

PA1609233089 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 4 Sep 89 p 11

[Text] Approximately 26 labor unions decided to withdraw from the National Peasant-Worker Unity (UNOC), because it joined the National Union of Salvadoran

Workers (UNTS), whose "fighting methods jeopardize the UNOC's democratic identity."

The leadership of the General Confederation of Workers (CGT), organization, consisting of government and private workers, said that it has decided to "freeze its relations with UNOC" because it does not agree with the "violent fighting methods" used by its allies, the leftist UNTS.

When explaining that the UNOC leadership did not consult with the CGT rank and file prior to joining the UNTS and that it ignored the opinion of the majority of the members, CGT Assistant General Secretary Ramon Jimenez Palma said that "the UNOC-UNTS alliance jeopardizes our democratic identity."

Jimenez Palma added that even though the objectives sought by the CGT and the UNOC-UNTS alliance are compatible, the CGT is mainly a pacifist organization that in its actions avoids trampling on other people's rights.

"We do not agree with violence and our labor union struggles are limited to demanding obedience to laws that benefit the workers," the sources said.

Likewise, the CGT expressed its moral support for CGT General Secretary Jose Luis Grande Preza and for UNOC General Coordinator Amanda Claribel Villatoro, in light of the threats they have received from unidentified sectors.

Guatemala

Editorial Praises New U.S. Antidrug Measures

PA1509231089 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Sep 89 p 6-A

["Spyglass" column by Mario Antonio Sandoval: "Preparations For War"]

[Text] President Bush has outlined four main points in the war against drug traffickers, whom he blames for the "undermining of our strength as a nation." He blames those who use or sell drugs and those who look the other way, thereby allowing a form of cocaine called "crack," disguised as candy, to reach even 4-year-olds (!!!). This war, however, is also based on "a nationwide strategy that will reach every school and workplace and that will include the family."

Mr Bush says that, first of all, we must enforce the law. To do this, federal aid will be doubled at state and national levels through "severe prison sentences, more prisons, more courts, and more district attorneys." Second, he said, we "will not turn our backs on our brave friends in Colombia." He said that "if U.S. citizens use drugs, they are paying for people to be murdered." He said he will grant aid to countries in need, "using, for the first time, the appropriate resources of the U.S. Armed Forces. He also proposed "death for the drug czars." Third, he proposed expanding rehabilitation programs and urging employers to implement aid programs for workers. His fourth point is to implement preventive programs in schools and communities throughout the nation.

In keeping with the times, President Bush speaks softly but acts firmly. Last week he delivered a speech in clear words, the words of someone used to keeping his promises. To fulfill his goal he must have the support of "a determined, united, and indignant United States."

Only then will he carry out the will of the American people, who have not lost their basic characteristic of having a true desire to do good. That is why they are willing to wage this war "like a united nation, so that drugs will become nothing more than a fistful of useless chemical substances."

Evidently the United States is about to awaken like the giant it really is. It is united by what it rightly considers to be a just cause: survival as a nation. We should ask ourselves what the attitude of a nation like Guatemala, which is so dependent on U.S. cooperation for its survival, should be. Anyone connected to the Guatemalan Government and who the United States believes to be in any way involved in drug trafficking should know that for the good of the country he should withdraw from the political arena. You do not have to be a genius to recognize that if Uncle Sam has declared war on drugs, he will not accept the tolerant attitudes of those who do not act firmly against drug traffickers.

This time we cannot seriously speak of a U.S. imperialist intervention. This time its survival is in real danger. That is why it has the legal and moral authority to defend itself, because at the same time it is defending the survival of the whole American Continent and that of the rest of Western civilization. In view of this direct confrontation, we should ask ourselves if it is not time to review some concepts like "sovereignty," "criminals' rights," "rehabilitation programs," and other ideas that were taken for granted and considered almost natural by countries that did not have to worry about the antidrug war.

It is ironic that a country like the United States with the atomic capability to destroy the world, which has sent a satellite to Uranus, which has the best fighter planes, in short, which has a technology undreamed of a generation ago, is forced to admit that its survival is at stake in slums as well as in rich neighborhoods. It has had to admit that to win this war it has to strengthen the oldest of all social institutions, the family, which is based on the everlasting human values instead of arsenals and liberal trends and attitudes.

Drug Traffickers Use Fake Guatemalan Passports

PA1409190389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1554 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Official sources announced today that the Colombian authorities have discovered that members of the Medellin Cartel

provide altered Guatemalan passports to couriers who bring to Guatemala cocaine that is later taken to the United States.

Arturo Chur del Cid, director of the Guatemalan Immigration Department, has reported that in Bogota, during a recent military operation against drug trafficking, the police seized three Guatemalan passports.

The seized documents were issued to German Alberto Marin Ramos, Cesar Augusto Saldana, and Irma Yolanda Samayoa Veliz.

Chur del Cid said: "The passports were issued by Guatemala's Immigration Department. They could have been stolen and taken to Colombia where they were found with different photographs, ready for use by drug traffickers."

The official said that the documents were carefully analyzed and that it has been established that data on the passports was altered and that the photographs were not those of the true owners of the documents.

As a result of this situation, anyone with a Colombian visa wanting to come to Guatemala must first consult with authorities to see if this is possible. This is a preventive measure to keep the country from serving as a springboard for drug traffickers.

Investigation Conducted

PA1609015689 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 15 Sep 89 p 8

[Text] A national police spokesman reported on 14 September that an investigation has begun to determine how many Guatemalan passports are still held by international drug traffickers, affiliated with the Medellin Cartel.

The General Immigration Directorate has also started to investigate how these international drug traffickers, allegedly linked to a group called "the Extraditables," obtained the Guatemalan passports.

It was reported that these investigations were necessary to determine the date and manner in which the passports were lost.

It was also noted that the passports were issued by immigration officials to Guatemalan citizens who had presented the appropriate legal documents in 1986.

Chur del Cid [not further identified] stated that investigations will continue in case more passports have been used for the same purpose. He added that he will request more information from Colombian officials.

Armed Men Kill 3 Adults, Wound 3 Children

PA1409210789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1616 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Sep (DPA)—The authorities today reported that armed men killed a family of three adults and wounded three children in Coatepeque, southwestern Guatemala.

The bodies of two men with signs of torture were from the same area. The eyes of one were pulled out and the genitals of the other mutilated.

These incidents follow the kidnapping and murder of four university students and kidnapping of seven others whose whereabouts are unknown.

Last night during a demonstration, which was supported by other segments of the population, university students marched toward the government palace where they vigoroulsy protested against the uncontrollable wave of violence that is shaking Guatemala.

Various governments have expressed concern over the most recent incidents in Guatemala, because they could jeopardize its democratic process. The United States issued a "travel advisory" warning visitors to stay clear of the most dangerous areas.

Meanwhile, it was reported that seven peasants were kidnapped in San Marcos, western Guatemala. Like before, they were taken away by heavily armed men who carried out their actions because the authorities were unable to stop them.

U.S. Charge d'Affairs Phillip Taylor, who is now heads the mission due to the ambassador's absence, on 13 September condemned the bloodshed in the country and appealed to the kidnappers to return people they are holding alive. "I ask God to touch the heart of those holding students and other people and return them safe and sound to their homes," he said.

He added: "The enemies of freedom must not be allowed to destroy Guatemala's constitutional institutions that have taken so much effort to build."

Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, acting Congress President Marco Antonio Dardon, Archbishop Msgr Prospero Penados, and leaders from different political, economic, and social circles, condemned the wave of violence, which according to accusations by Cerezo and Defense Minister General Hector Gramajo, ultraright sectors are promoting, and which the police and other security corps are unable to stop.

Cerezo said he would ask for international cooperation for assistance in the area of security. The Guatemalan Congress asked the United Nations to send a Human Rights representative to impose order in this situation.

Officers Accused of Involvement in Terrorism

PA1609182289 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 15 Sep 89 p 8

[Text] National Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo Morales revealed on 14 September the names of the Army officers who, in his opinion, are among those responsible for the terrorism in the country.

We have information that Army officers are involved in terrorist actions, he said.

Gen Gramajo added: We have come to the conclusion that those officers are the dissidents that could not deal the 9 May coup d'etat and that we could not apprehend. They include Colonel Francisco Castellanos, Captain Allan Castellanos Reyes, and Lieutenant Colonel Edgar Giovanni Estrada Portillo.

Private sector dissidents who do not work according to the guidelines followed by the private sector organizations, as well as political party dissidents, are also involved in the terrorist actions, he said.

In addition, the national defense minister said the [U.S. Government] travel advisory came too late.

He explained: It came too late because the document talks about the riots, the teachers' strike, and the increase in subversive actions. All this happened in July and August, when the subversives availed themselves of the riots in the city.

The situation created by the riots and subversive actions was also used by "the madmen" who brought their terrorist actions to the streets, the minister said.

The defense minister also reported that the Army is actively cooperating with the government ministry to control violence and crime.

Gen Gramajo added: We have not specifically ascertained the participation of foreigners in terrorist actions, but we have confirmed that South Americans are involved in the crimes. They tend to stay in Guatemalan whenever they are unable to enter the United States, he said.

Honduras

Head of UN Mission Comments on Visit 13 Sep

PA1509152789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2311 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The UN technical-military mission currently touring Central America ended its visit to Honduras today without being able to visit the Honduran-Salvadoran border, and then left for Nicaragua, the fourth stop on its tour.

Brazilian General Pericles Ferraira, head of the technical mission preparing a report for the creation of a group of UN Observers for Central America (ONUCA), told ACAN-EFE that the Honduran-Salvadoran border will be visited when the mission arrives in El Salvador.

Gen Ferraira said that the mission was able to overlook the 717-km-long Honduran-Nicaraguan border using a Venezuelan plane.

The head of the mission sent by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that the Honduran Armed Forces could not supply helicopters to visit the border with El Salvador, because at the time of the group's arrival in Tegucigalpa they were being used in military maneuvers with the U.S. Army.

Nevertheless, he added, "we managed to obtain all or most of the information we wanted."

ONUCA will be made up of military forces from Spain, the FRG, Canada, and possibly Venezuela, after Perez de Cuellar presents a request to create this group to the UN Security Council.

Its objective will be to provide surveillance to prevent the use of the territory of a Central American country by irregular forces from another country.

Ferraira said that today, together with Honduran Armed Forces officers, the mission "carried out a reconnaissance by land in El Paraiso Department," located in the eastern region bordering with Nicaragua, where approximately 13,000 contra fighters of the Nicaraguan armed opposition are based.

"We did not visit the border with El Salvador; however, I decided that we will visit that area when we arrive there" on 19 September, Gen Ferraira told ACAN-EFE.

Hours before departing to Nicaragua, three members of the UN mission—two military and one civilian—expressed their surprise at the "little cooperation" they received from Honduran and Guatemalan military authorities.

However, a Honduran Armed Forces spokesman told ACAN-EFE that "both the Foreign Ministry and the Armed Forces gave the mission all the security and transportation means available to conduct their work in Honduran territory."

Gen Ferraira also met today, 13 September, for 2 hours with General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces. One of the members of the mission described that meeting as "very positive and important for ONUCA's presence in Central America."

In that regard, Ferraira said that Regalado told him that "from the moment ONUCA arrives in Honduras, it will receive full support from the Armed Forces."

Meanwhile, Spain's Francesco Vendrell, representative of the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV) created to demobilize and repatriate or relocate the contras, confirmed that he will meet with

leaders of the anti-Sandinist rebels on 16 September in Yamales, El Paraiso Department.

He added that only "preliminary" meetings have been held so far, adding that one cannot think that "the contra demobilization can take place in 8 days."

Vendrell said that the CIAV is initially "listening to the opinion of Nicaraguan and Honduran authorities" regarding the demobilization, and then it will hear the opinion of the anti-Sandinist rebels and of the governments of other countries, "including the United States."

Vendrell said that the CIAV is conducting a mission "of good offices to facilitate their return and demobilization." He stressed that were it not such a complex problem, "only trucks and planes" would be necessary to repatriate or relocate the contras in third countries.

Vendrell said that the contras and their families will be relocated in third countries only if they are not repatriated, "which we consider the best option, as long as it is voluntary."

Bermudez Addresses Contras

PA1609132689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0201 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Yamales (Honduras), 15 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Francesco Vendrell from Spain and Hugo de Cela from Peru, members of a mission from the United Nations and the Organization of American States, today asked the "contra" leaders based in Honduras to hold a meting in Tegucigalpa 16 September to agree on the mechanisms to demobilize the irregular forces.

This was reported to ACAN-EFE by rebel Commander Enrique Bermudez in Yamales, located approximately 140 km from Tegucigalpa, in the presence of some 6,000 armed "contras" and representatives from the U.S. State Department and of the Agency for International Development (AID).

Bermudez arrived in Yamales today to wait for the delegates of the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV) headed by Vendrell and de Cela in order to begin negotiations for the demobilization of the "contras" based in El Paraiso Department, bordering Nicaragua.

The "contra" leader said that the CIAV representatives said that they could not go to the anti-Sandinist garrison in El Paraiso due to lack of time. Despite the unexpected change of plans, the "contra" leaders said that they will be present in Tegucigalpa to express their willingness to demobilize, but "only if Nicaragua is democratized," Bermudez said.

The rebel commander stressed that the organization he heads will not turn in its weapons only to comply with the resolutions signed at the latest summit of Central American presidents held in early August in Tela, on the Honduran Caribbean coast.

The main anti-Sandinist leaders took advantage of their visit to Yamales to head a ceremony commemorating the 168th anniversary of Central America's independence from the Spanish crown.

Approximately 6,000 uniformed and armed fighters and some 2,000 civilians stood throughout the 4-hour ceremony.

Bermudez, who delivered the main speech in the presence of U.S. State Department and AID officials, complained that "while the United States has only given us $200 million during the past 20 months, the Sandinists have received $3 billion from the Communists."

Both the State Department and the AID are constantly in contact with the "contras," who receive $2.5 million from Washington every month.

Also present at the ceremony was Pablo Antonio Vega, a Nicaraguan bishop residing in Miami who decided to live among the "contras."

Bermudez added that under the current conditions it is difficult to expect a radical change in Nicaragua. He stressed that "expecting the Sandinists to democratize is like expecting the devil to be converted into a Catholic."

In response to their leader's statement, the thousands of "contras" present shouted: "Long live a free Nicaragua," and "When the commandoes move, the nine (Sandinist commanders) tremble."

The celebrations ended with sports activities that included races, bullfights, volleyball games and dance contests at which Michael Jackson's music was played.

The peak event was a baseball game in which Bermudez pitched the first ball. One of the fighters described the game through a 16-tower loudspeaker system.

Nicaragua

Jimmy Carter Organization To Observe Elections

Argentina's Alfonsin Arrives

PA1609155289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, who together with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter will observe the upcoming Nicaraguan elections, arrived in the country 15 September. The former Argentine president is a member of the Council of the Freely Chosen Former Presidents [Consejo de Ex-Presidentes Libremente Elegidos], an organization headed by former President Jimmy Carter and sponsored by Emory University in Atlanta. According to Alfonsin, the organization is trying to defend democracy throughout the world. Alfonsin will be in Nicaragua until 17 September and during his stay will meet with Nicaraguan President

Daniel Ortega, the Supreme Electoral Council, and representatives of the opposition parties. Alfonsin is accompanied by Raul Alcarada Centeno, former secretary for Latin America and former Argentine foreign minister.

On 15 February, when the Nicaraguan elections will be held, we will be attending a new democratic episode, Alfonsin said. I believe this is very important because it is a general election being held in a Latin American country. We are optimistic regarding this process in Nicaragua, particularly because we have worked hard for this, Alfonsin said.

BARRICADA Welcomes Carter Arrival

PA1609173289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1551 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The state-owned newspaper BARRICADA today reported that former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who arrives in Nicaragua today as the guest of the Sandinist government and political opposition to observe the election process, "will certify the rightwing's defeat" in the upcoming elections.

The former U.S. President, chairman of the "Carter Center" at Emory University in Atlanta, arrives in Managua today at the head of a seven-member delegation that includes his wife Rosalynn Carter. The delegation will remain until 18 September.

BARRICADA states that the presence of Jimmy Carter and former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, who arrived in Managua on 15 September also as an observer, will allow the verification of the election's "purity."

Nicaragua's general elections will be held on 25 February 1990.

The arrival of international observers, including Carter, a representative figure who enjoys credibility in the United States, is "further proof of the breadth and seriousness with which Nicaragua is approaching the elections."

"It would be difficult to accuse Carter of being partial to Nicaragua and the Sandinist National Liberation Front, the ruling party, let alone of being against his country's interests," the newspaper underlined.

"The rightwing has no objections to make regarding the electoral process; they should display maturity, responsibility, and class when their defeat is ratified" at the polls, BARRICADA concluded.

Carter Arrives 16 Sep

PA1609200189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1806 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived in Nicaragua today in his capacity as director of the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government to serve as an observer of the Nicaraguan electoral process, which will culminate on 25 February 1990.

Carter was met at Sandino International Airport in Managua by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin.

The former U.S. President will remain in Nicaragua until 18 September. He is here on his first visit to Nicaragua to observe the elections.

As his first activity, Carter met for 45 minutes at the airport with President Ortega and Mariano Fiallos, president of Nicaragua's Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), which will regulate the elections.

Carter is accompanied in Managua by his wife, Rosalynn, and seven other representatives of the 15-member Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government.

Ortega Greets Carter; Comments

PA1609201189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1934 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 16 Sep (DPA)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today urged the U.S. Government to transfer the aid destined for the contras to the OAS and United Nations to finance the demobilization of anti-Sandinist rebels located in Honduran territory.

The Nicaraguan president gave the statement at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua following a meeting with former U.S. President James Carter, who arrived in Nicaragua as a guest to observe the Nicaraguan election process.

Ortega added that there are conflicting positions in the United States about Nicaragua. For example, Senator Jesse Helms has said the approval of money for Nicaragua would imply giving the money to the Communists who are part of the opposition, and giving the money to the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) would imply giving it to the Sandinists.

"These are extreme positions in the United States," Ortega said, adding that if George Bush's administration seriously wants to contribute to the election process in Nicaragua, it must first transfer the contra funds to the contra demobilization process."

He said that his government will provide all facilities to former President Carter and to former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, who arrived on 15 September in Managua to observe the election process in the country—where 21 political parties are qualified to participate in the 25 February 1990 elections.

Ortega said he is certain that Carter's and Alfonsin's role as observers "will surely strengthen and develop the election process, which is the result of the Nicaraguan Government's actions."

He said that the election process will cost approximately $25 million and certain internal adjustments were necessary. This includes taking $14 million from the nation's budget and giving it to the CSE, which is in charge of organizing the 1990 elections.

"We hope that the countries which appear so concerned about the election process in Nicaragua will back their concern with a substantial contribution which allows us to cover the costs," the Nicaraguan president asserted.

Ortega also said that his government accepts any financial aid from abroad, "provided that it is given openly, and the law clearly says that 50 percent of that aid must be turned over to the CSE."

Several UNO [National Opposition Union] politicians are currently in Washington trying to "get" $3 million in U.S. aid. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, editor in chief of the newspaper LA PRENSA, is scheduled to travel to the United States 17 September, with a technical stopover in Costa Rica.

Carter Meets Electoral Officials

PA1709014089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0053 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 16 Sep (AFP)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said he was pleased with the report the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) gave him on the preparations for the elections in Nicaragua.

After the meeting with the CSE, which was also attended by former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Carter said that the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government, which he leads, wants the 25 February elections to be a "success."

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said Carter and Alfonsin's participation as observers "will strengthen" the electoral process.

Ortega went to Managua's international airport this morning to welcome Carter, who begins his work of observing the elections on behalf of the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government. Alfonsin is also a member of the council.

In a meeting with the two former presidents, the CSE members briefed them on the CSE's work and gave their opinions on the role that the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government can play in the Nicaraguan elections.

According to Carter, some differences among CSE members emerged during the meeting, which he hopes "will quickly be solved."

CSE President Mariano Fiallos said the five CSE members expressed their viewpoints, "which are not necessarily the same."

The CSE is comprised of two delegates of the opposition, two of the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), and one notable without political affiliation.

Fiallos said that Guillermo Selva, delegate of the National Opposition Union (UNO), and Julian Corrales, an FSLN delegate, gave different viewpoints on the work of the CSE.

Carter and Alfonsin had lunch with UNO presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro de Barrios and are scheduled to have dinner with President Ortega tonight.

"With such wonderful observers, we should not fear electoral fraud," Violeta Barrios said after her 2-hour meeting with Carter.

Sources close to the former President said that to maintain his independence as an observer, Carter has avoided maintaining lengthy contacts with members of the Nicaraguan Government or the U.S. Embassy during his working meetings and visits.

Ortega on Carter Visit, Campaign

PA1709042289 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0254 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Statements by Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and President Daniel Ortega to unidentified local and foreign correspondents in Managua—live]

[Text] [Carter, in English] I will be seeing him [President Ortega] again tomorrow to talk about other issues.

[Correspondent, in English] You just completed your first full day of talks in Nicaragua with the opposition leaders and candidates and with President Ortega. What are some of the worries that they have expressed to you that you think might be worth talking about?

[Station announcer interrupts to say that the statements are spoken in English and that the station's microphones are too far away from speakers]

[Carter, in English] There are a number of specific issues and I need to discuss them with the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] before I discuss them with the press.

[Correspondent, in English] Thank you, very much.

[Announcer interrupts again to say that the statements were brief and in English]

[Reporter] President Ortega, could you tell us something about your meeting with Mr Carter?

[Ortega] Well, we—be careful or I am going to swallow the microphone. We talked about the work they will carry out here as election observers. We confirmed all the support they already have and the support that the Nicaraguan Government will continue to give them. It was a very ample and direct conversation. We discussed various issues dealing with the development of the election process. [passage indistinct].

The participation of observers such as Former President Carter, Former President Raul Alfonsin, and the Venezuelan representative contributes toward strengthening the Nicaraguan election process. The participation of figures like those I just mentioned and with whom we met tonight should please everyone.

In addition, those figures met with Nicaraguan opposition leaders and with leaders of other groups. Tomorrow the visitors will continue with their meetings. I will meet with Former President Carter and Former President Alfonsin tomorrow. We will continue with these meetings until they leave. Alfonsin will leave tomorrow and Former President Carter will leave on Monday. I am very pleased with this meeting.

[Correspondent] Mr Carter said today that insofar as the observers certify free elections in Nicaragua, et cetera, the normalization of relations with the United States could be facilitated. Do you agree with that?

[Ortega] I believe that insofar as the U.S. extreme right-wing groups are left without arguments and weapons against Nicaragua, in other words, the confirmation of free elections in Nicaragua would eliminate pretexts that justify policies of isolation, especially policies of economic isolation such as the ones they have maintained and continue to maintain against Nicaragua.

[Correspondent] Did you talk about some of the opposition's concerns?

[Ortega] We exchanged, rather we clarified a series of issues.

[Correspondent] Commander Ortega, did you mention the funds to be assigned by the U.S. Congress?

[Ortega] There is an open debate on this topic. Some congressmen, including some extreme right congressmen such as Jesse Helms, are opposed to sending the funds because they say that the opposition is full of Communists and that the funds will also help the government cover electoral expenses. Therefore, it will depend on the United States, the U.S. Government, and Congress whether they will adopt the most constructive position, which is effectively supporting the electoral process.

[Correspondent] Did your government make any reference to the demobilization of the contras?

[Ortega] I have insisted on a well-known position, which is that if the United States is really in favor of elections in Nicaragua, it should turn its words into actions. The United States faces a challenge. Central American presidents signed an agreement on 7 August in Tela [Honduras] which states that the contras must leave Honduras. Meanwhile, the U.S. Congress approved $66.7 million in funds for the contras. One of the clauses or paragraphs in that document says that eventually those funds can be used to get the contras out of Honduras. This aspect of the U.S. congressional law coincided with a subsequent decision by the Central American presidents. Now it is up to the U.S. Executive Branch—in other words the U.S. President, and not the U.S. Congress—to take the necessary steps to transfer those funds that are now being used to kill the Nicaraguan people to the United Nations, to the Organization of American States, and to the mechanisms created for the demobilization of the contras. In that manner it would effectively support the Nicaraguan electoral process.

[Correspondent] Cardinal Obando y Bravo... [corrects himself] the contras have requested a meeting with Cardinal Obando y Bravo, which will take place tomorrow in Miami. What would be your message to that meeting?

[Ortega] I have no knowledge of that request from the contras, or of any reply from the cardinal. We will have to wait to see what happens.

Carter Meets With Rights Group

PA1809002089 Paris AFP in Spanish 2332 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 17 Sep (AFP)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter today prayed for peace in Central America and expressed hope that the Nicaraguan elections in February will be "clean and fair so that they will bring peace to our hearts."

Carter, who arrived on Saturday to observe the electoral process on behalf of the Freely Elected Heads of Government, said, speaking in Managua's Baptist Church, that "the leaders of this hemisphere very much want the elections to be honest so there will be democracy and reconciliation in Nicaragua."

The former President today visited the offices of the opposition Permanent Human Rights Commission, where its president, Social Christian politician Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, charged that the Sandinist government has not kept its promise of issuing a general amnesty and halting military recruitment.

"We centered our statement on human rights violations that deal with the electoral process. Former President Carter took note of these complaints and promised to discuss this topic with President Daniel Ortega," Rivas said at the end of the meeting with the former U.S. President.

Carter told reporters that there are aspects in the Nicaraguan Constitution and laws with which he does not agree, but he added, "we are not here to change laws, but to draw attention to the human rights violations that might interfere with a free and fair electoral process."

The former President said the human rights commission gave him a list of 6,000 political prisoners. This number differs from the one mentioned by the government and confirmed by the International Red Cross, which states there are 1,200 prisoners.

Meanwhile, President Ortega met with Former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, who is also a member of the group led by Carter.

At the end of his meeting with Alfonsin, the Sandinist leader reiterated that Washington can send observers to the elections if it stops supporting the contras and halts its pressure on Western governments that are helping Managua hold the elections.

Ortega Interviewed 18 Sep

PA1809040789 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0237 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega by unidentified reporters at the Intercontinental Hotel in Managua, on 18 September—recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] We talked more about President Carter's participation in this electoral process. He has heard the opposition parties express their concerns. He has also learned that there is an opposition group that refuses to abide by the agreement signed during the meeting at the Olof Palme Convention Center. At that time all the political parties and the government signed an agreement. The opposition is now saying that the contra prisoners must be released immediately. Yet during the meeting at the Olof Palme Convention Center, they agreed that the contras would be released after the demobilization. Their release is conditioned to the demobilization of the contras. I think that it is important to call on all the opposition parties that signed the agreement to act seriously and with responsibility and abide by what they signed and refrain from opening debate on this issue and disregard what they signed. They have to abide by what they signed just like we are abiding by what we signed.

[Reporter] What does President Carter think of all this?

[Ortega] He is here gathering information. He is hearing other opinions and viewpoints, and tomorrow he will be meeting with LA PRENSA representatives.

[Reporter] Will you meet again with him? Will Mr Carter's group remain here in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] He will be in contact with the government and he will also be in contact with the opposition parties. He will be in contact with the Supreme Electoral Council just as he will be in contact with the OAS and [words indistinct].

Election News Monitoring Facilities Established

PA1509154189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Yesterday, former CIA analyst (David May Michaels) and former contra board member Edgar Chamorro Coronel announced the founding of a center to monitor information on the Nicaraguan electoral process.

According to Michaels and Chamorro, the center's mission will be to report on any manipulation of the news or to denounce any false reports covering events, especially by U.S. Government publicity agents.

Michaels worked for the CIA as an analyst for the National Security Council between 1981 and 1983. Chamorro Coronel worked as a contra leader between 1982 and 1984.

The offices that will monitor the news on the Nicaraguan election process will be located in Managua, New York, and Washington.

Government Denies Visas to U.S. Observers

PA1609121589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Washington—Leonor Arguello de Hupper, Nicaraguan charge d'affairs in the United States, has confirmed her government's refusal to grant visas to a mission of U.S. observers linked to the World Freedom Foundation.

The refusal is based on the fact that the foundation is directed by Curtin Windsor, former U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica, who promoted the creation of the contra forces, who have sown death in this country for 10 years.

Leonor Arguello pointed out that (Brent Vosser), president of the foundation, recently visited the contra sanctuaries in Honduras and promised to continue helping them. She said that, therefore, his status as observer is biased and immoral.

Congress Refuses To Grant Aid for UNO Ticket

PA1709015589 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Sep 89 pp 1, 2

[Text] The U.S. Government has started to mention "private organizations" as possible intermediaries in the delivery of economic aid for the UNO [National Opposition Union] presidential ticket in view of the refusal of the U.S. Congress to use the NED [National Endowment for Democracy] to channel the aid.

Showing signs of slight disappointment, official spokesman Richard Boucher said yesterday that "there are other options," although he refused to identify any of them. Almost simultaneously, UNO members who are visiting Washington—where they were exercising pressure to obtain the aid they had been promised if UNO formed a single presidential ticket—comforted themselves by stating: "We are willing to receive any type of legal aid, whether it comes from the United States or from other democratic countries."

Politicians Alfredo Cesar, Guillermo Putoy, Luis Sanchez, and Adan Fletes concluded their visit to Washington after learning the unfavorable U.S. Congress decision. The Congress rejected President Bush's request

for approval of between $3 to $5 million from the NED's funds to be given to the UNO election campaign.

The members of the ultrarightist coalition justified their presence in Washington as a visit "to obtain financial backing for the Nicaraguan election process and not "for our election campaign in particular." In Managua, however, UNO vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy said on 14 September that the visit of the UNO members to Washington "does not imply extra commitments, but that it is only an attempt to promote the government platform."

Visibly humiliated, Alfredo Cesar had to recognize in Washington that the Nicaraguan elections may be clean, "but not fair," because "the Sandinists receive support from Libya and the USSR." Cesar made those statements to try to convince Washington [to approve the aid] and to prepare it for UNO's imminent defeat.

U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Inter-American Affairs Subcommittee, said that the approval of Bush's initiative "could destroy NED's credibility and could harm its work in other countries."

In the fiscal year that concludes next October, the U.S. Congress allowed the NED to spend $3.5 million in various programs in Nicaragua, but it excluded all forms of support for activities directly linked to the election campaign.

It was recalled in Washington that part of that money was used to support labor unions and groups that the NED identified as "civic" groups and to strengthen opposition newspaper LA PRENSA.

The U.S. State Department revealed that Bush's government already began to explore "other paths" to directly help the UNO presidential ticket.

Tinoco Talks to CIAV About Contra Return

PA1609150389 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1226 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Francesco Vendrell and Hugo de Cela, UN and OAS secretaries general representatives, have announced that they will travel to Honduras on 16 September to visit the contra camps. Vendrell and De Cela made the announcement following a lengthy meeting, held in Managua over the national holiday on 15 September, with Nicaraguan Government representatives Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, Major General Joaquin Cuadra, and Interior Ministry Commander Rodolfo Garcia.

During the meeting with the CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] representatives, our government expressed its view regarding the CIAV's main task, which is to supervise the demobilization, relocation, and voluntary repatriation of the contras and their families. However, Tinoco said, we believe there is a contradiction when the representatives of the international organizations use the term voluntary demobilization of the contras. Their interpretation is not correct. The word voluntary only applies to the repatriation, but their withdrawal from Honduran territory is an obligation. Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo made this commitment at the Tela summit; he made the commitment before his other colleagues and the world. That commitment must be honored and implemented. The contras must leave Honduras by 8 December and not in February after the Nicaragua elections are held. This is what the United States wants but Nicaragua cannot accept it. Deputy Foreign Minister Tinoco said that the Honduran Government has the normal and legal duty of approving and facilitating the demoblization of the contras and the dismantling of their camps in Honduras. This must be done even if the CIAV does not have coercive powers, like the visiting delegates have said.

While this meeting was being held at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, the other delegation, ONUCA [UN Group of Observers to Central America], headed by Brazilian General Pericles Ferraira, visited the Nicaraguan-Honduran border area. The tour began in Rio Blanco where he gathered information that will surely be of importance for the first report he will submit to his superiors at the United Nations.

Likewise, Deputy Foreign Minister Tinoco, on behalf of the Nicaraguan Government, gave the CIAV a document with specific proposals regarding the repatriation process of the Nicaraguans who are in Honduras. The document includes suggestions for the repatriation of approximately 35,000 persons and the social, economic, and material costs this process represents. The Nicaraguan Government also discussed the problem of hundreds of Nicaraguans who have been kidnapped by the contras. Tinoco said that the CIAV had been given a list with the names of 853 persons who were kidnapped by the contras. This list was drafted by the National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. This list is based on charges presented by the families of the kidnapped persons. Tinoco said that the CIAV representatives will meet with President Daniel Ortega, Interior Minister Tomas Borge, and other social and religious representatives.

Deputy Foreign Minister Tinoco also said that the fact that the Nicaraguan Government is willing to explain to the contra leaders the guarantees it is offering should not be interpreted as a resumption of talks. Tinoco made this statement after his meeting with the CIAV representatives. Tinoco added: we are willing to give the contra leaders a direct explanation should circumstances demand this within the process of demobilization; however, this cannot be interpreted as political talks. Tinoco denounced the manipulation by some rightist sectors who are attempting to pressure the government to begin another process of dialogue with the contra forces. The deputy foreign minister stressed that the government wants to achieve peace and put an end to the bloody war that imperialism imposed on Nicaragua 8 long years ago.

However, Tinoco added, there will be times when it will be necessary to explain to the contra leaders matters related to the guarantee and safety of those who will lay down their weapons and who wish to return to the country to participate in its social, physical, and economic reconstruction.

Humberto Ortega Statements in Mexico Reported

PA1809043089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0342 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Sep (EFE)—Nicaraguan Defense Minister General Humberto Ortega admitted in Mexico City today that hunger, unemployment, and serious sociopolitical problems continue to affect his country.

In remarks to the press before returning to Managua, Gen Ortega added that despite that situation, the Nicaraguan people have confidence in the Sandinist government and their political vanguard, the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Gen Ortega insisted that Sandinism will win votes without deceiving the Nicaraguans in the 25 February presidential elections in that Central American country.

The brother of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega travelled to Mexico as guest of honor at the commemoration of the 179th anniversary of Mexico's independence.

Gen Ortega also said the process of disbanding the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries has already reached an irreversible phase.

He said the presidential elections will be a victory for the FSLN, but he admitted that if the opposition wins, the FSLN and the Army will respect the new government.

Gen Ortega called for the reelection of his brother Daniel as president, although he said the nomination of the FSLN presidential candidate will take place on Sunday, after a process of direct consultation with the people.

He said that if the opposition wins, the new government must respect the FSLN and the army because in his opinion, "without the Sandinists, no one can govern Nicaragua."

Gen Ortega believes that with the disbanding of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries and the forthcoming presidential elections, his country can go from the current relative peace to total peace.

Gen Ortega emphasized that the government of Nicaragua has fully complied with the Esquipulas, Sapoa, and Tela agreements that seek to bring peace to the area.

He stressed that the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries who return to Nicaragua and rejoin political life will be able to participate in next February's elections.

He pointed out that he now expects the United States to respect the Central American peace process and not interfere in the 1990 presidential elections and in the dismantling of the counterrevolution, "inasmuch as this would be the best way to support democracy."

He emphasized that the dismantling of the counterrevolution is "an elegant solution" to lessen the defeat of those—he says—who already know perfectly well they will not win.

Gen Ortega said that since January, several hundred Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have already rejoined political life, but he explained that there are still about 2,000 individuals operating in the central and southern areas of the country, in addition to approximately 4,000 rebels who still remain on four bases in Honduran territory.

He explained that it is difficult to specify exactly how many counterrevolutionaries are returning to Nicaragua, because most of them are poor peasants who are returning to their hometowns, and they do not notify the authorities until several weeks or months later.

He estimated that the agreements reached last Friday in this city between the Salvadoran guerrillas and government represent an important step toward achieving a negotiated solution to the war in El Salvador. Otherwise, he says, the situation would become a time bomb.

Meanwhile, Gen Ortega rejected the U.S. Government's charges that Nicaragua is supporting with weapons the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas.

In concluding, he denied that there are narcotics-trafficking problems in his country, because—according to him—"the Nicaraguan youths have not been contaminated." In addition, he said, Nicaragua does not produce drugs, nor does its territory serve as a stopover for narcotics trafficking.

Panama

'Possible' Accord With U.S. on Money Laundering

PA1809034589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Sep 89 pp A-1, B-2

[Article by Claudio Herrera]

[Text] Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of the National Banking Association, has stated that a possible accord between Panama and the United States to curb money-laundering operations would have to be specific about the conditions and the dispositions set forth in it.

Lasso Valdes was referring to the request made last week by the U.S. Government for foreign governments to reform their banking laws so as to fight money-laundering activities stemming from narcotics trafficking through the world banking system.

"We would have to examine the proposal conditions," commented the banker, who was skeptical about

allowing an open policy for examining bank books to search for money laundering operations.

Lasso Valdes denied there is a treaty on narcotics trafficking between Panama and the United States. However, he noted that the cooperation that has been given is within the framework of law number 23 of December 1986, "by which some articles of the Penal Code and the Judiciary Code were modified and other special dispositions were adopted concerning drug-related crimes, their prevention, and rehabilitation."

Article 8 of Law Number 23 of December 1986 changes Article 263 of the Penal Code to read as follows:

Article 263: The instruments, goods, and valuables used to commit crimes as stated in this law, in addition to the benefits of the property, will be seized.

On the other hand, Article 22 of Law Number 23 states that the instruments, money, valuables, and other property used to commit drug-related crimes and the benefits derived from such crimes will be temporarily seized by the prosecutor, will remain inactive, and will be turned over to the Attorney General's Office, until the case is settled by the corresponding court. When it is pertinent, the order to seize the property will be recorded in the Public Registrar.

Article 23 states that the temporarily-seized money, valuables, and other property mentioned in the above article will be deposited in a bank or savings and loans associations wherever they may be at the time. Should the property not be deposited in any of the above financial institutions, they will be deposited in the safekeeping fund that the Attorney General's Office has in the National Bank of Panama for such purposes.

U.S. Suspected of Waging Biological Warfare

PA1609161889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Sep 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Is the Aggressor's Hand Sowing Death?"]

[Text] We currently face the tremendous danger of a yellow fever or hemorrhagic dengue epidemic, the consequences of which can hardly be calculated. Approximately 1 and ½ years ago, our country was completely free of the vector insect, the AEDES AEGYPTI. However, the vector mosquito began to proliferate all of a sudden, and in the strangest way, not only in the dense and impenetrable Panamanian jungles but also in the urban and suburban areas of the capital.

Health authorities are deeply concerned about the infestation, which has alarming characteristics, and they have immediately taken the first steps to stop the propagation of this disease. The efforts have been unsuccessful given several factors, including the lack of cooperation by the people who live in the capital and its outskirts. Their houses are simply the most advantageous place for the vector's multiplication given the prevailing conditions.

Health investigators slowly discovered a highly important factor while they carried out their job. The mosquito was not brought into the country by accident, given the high levels which have prevailed since the beginning.

Investigations are still under way but, nevertheless, it seems that the initial infestation was excessively high.

This fact has brought about the logical deduction that at least the initial group of mosquitoes was sowed by someone. This is not the first time something like this has happened. Cuban health authorities discovered in 1962 that the Aedes Aegypti mosquito was being sown in their mountains by U.S. airplanes which reportedly fumigated the area near Guantanamo. There is no need to mention how much it cost Cuba to stop the dengue epidemic which broke out in the country, or the large amount of money it had to spend to eradicate the mosquito from its territory.

This form of war, biological war, is an underhanded and cold-blooded genocide being carried out by the United States against nations which rebel against its uncontrollable desire for power. It is now suspected that the Bush administration's criminal hand has also sowed in Panama the terrible brucellosis and echinococcosis which affect cattle and pigs, following the discovery of several animals with the diseases.

Although many consider that the crime perpetrated by the United States against Panama cannot be so insanely perverse, the national authorities have not dared to rule out the possibility that a low hand is provoking an epidemic without recognizing that it will shake the very foundations of the national economy and cause the death of thousands of innocent Panamanians.

The putrid eagle continues to sow death and misery.

PALA Expels McGowen as U.S. Embassy 'Spy'

PA1509192689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 10 Sep 89 pp 1-A, 13-A

[Text] Heeding LA REPUBLICA charges on the activities conducted by Mr Arturo McGowen, to the effect that he had become a spy for the U.S. Embassy within the Labor Party (PALA), that political group, through its Political Commission, has decided "to expel from PALA immediately" the aforementioned person.

As will be recalled, this newspaper publicly denounced Mr McGowen as the man who had been following U.S. Embassy instructions provided by Deputy Chief of Mission John Maisto, Embassy Counsellor David McGhee, and another gringo whose last name is Pault.

The PALA Political Commission investigated these charges, and found that they were indeed based on fact. It was proven McGowen had been working to infiltrate that party's leadership with orders taken from gringos Maisto, McGhee, and Pault.

The Political Commission resolution, issued yesterday, stated that "the PALA political guidelines and fundamental objectives constitute a permanent commitment to struggle for national liberation. That commitment requires strict compliance with the spirit and letter of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, respect for the right of the Panamanian people to self-determination, and rejection of U.S. Government meddling and aggession."

In its concluding paragraphs, PALA decided to "expel immediately Mr Arturo McGowen and forward the decision at once to the Ethics and Honor Commission so that the corresponding statutory procedures be implemented."

The resolution is dated 9 September in Panama City and is signed on behalf of the PALA Political Commission by: Juan A. Medrano, Jose A. Alessandria, Nestor Tomas Guerra, Ramon Siero, Jack Cardoze, Arturo Diez, Jose M. Redondo, Alejandro Vernaza, Franklyn Raymores, Roberto Barragan, Alberto Velasquez, Armando Aizpurua, Walter Coriat, Cesar Martans, Eduardo de Obaldia, Carlos Sinisterra, and Paulino Romero, Jr.

U.S. Troop Movements in Amador Condemned

PA1509162189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Early this morning U.S. troops in combat gear once again violated the treaties, conducting exercises with several types of armored vehicles in the Amador area near the headquarters of the Joint General Defense and Security Command without proper coordination with their Panamanian counterpart.

In this continuation of provocative acts and disrespect for Panamanian authorities and national sovereignty, numerous U.S. military units again displayed their arrogance based on their military power by mobilizing many military vehicles like tanks, personnel carriers, and armored assault hummers [high mobility multipurpose vehicles]. Besides the use of these vehicles, the U.S. military personnel were heavily armed, as can be seen in the following television takes.

As usual, the attitude of the U.S. troops was disrespectful and provocative. Their movements are being followed closely and cautiously by the always alert Panama Defense Forces, which until now has prevented a confrontation between the two armies with the subsequent loss of human lives.

The constant movement by the heavy U.S. military vehicles has severely damaged various highways in the capital city and other areas over which they have travelled, but the United States has not assumed responsibility for this damage. The so-called exercises lasted until late this morning, preventing pedestrians and vehicles from using the highway and recreation areas.

U.S. 'Market Square' Maneuvers Criticized

PA1609153089 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Sep 89 pp 1, 25

[Text] North Carolina, U.S.A. (Special Service)— The U.S. Armed Forces have started a big military maneuver called "Market Square" which will last from 11 to 23 September.

Reliable sources have reported that the maneuver is being carried out in North and South Carolina, as well as in Georgia. This maneuver includes the participation of more than 25,000 troops and approximately 80 fighter planes in a mock action dealing with possible aggression against Latin American countries such as Panama, Cuba, and Nicaragua.

According to the sources, the 82d Airborne Division and other elite units for special operations are participating in this exercise, which involves a mock landing of amphibious troops and paratroopers.

The 82d Airborne Division was the main protagonist of the invasion of the small Grenada island 6 years ago to crush Maurice Bishop's nationalist movement.

The other forces participating in the "Market Square" maneuver have a long record of aggression and violations in Latin America. Therefore, it has not been ruled out that this massive military display is aimed at carrying out a military action in Panama, Nicaragua, or any other Latin American country Washington feels obstructs its hegemonistic interests.

The sources also noted that various military experts have said that the United States is carrying out these mock exercises to make them a reality later on. They added that these maneuvers coincide with complex situations in the region, such as those in Panama, Nicaragua, and Cuba.

It was said that Panama could become a main target if President Bush's government decides to switch from rhetoric to military action, as it has been practicing in recent months.

The sources explained that, with many pretexts, the United States could use this maneuver to deal Panama a blow, especially a blow to General Noriega to smother the Panamanian people's nationalism.

Based on remarks by President Bush, the sources said that "Market Square" could be an exercise to kidnap Gen Noriega with a quick action by the 82d Division, the Rangers, and the Marines.

The sources also pointed to the possibility that this could be a mock exercise on what to do if the Sandinists win the elections next year or a possible attack on Cuba as a response to alleged reprisals from the Fidel Castro government because of the airing of an anti-Cuban television station.

However, it was noted that the situation in Latin America and the world is no longer the same. This was

proven in the recent OAS meeting and the nonaligned summit where the nations of Latin America and the world spoke against U.S. intervention in Panama.

The sources also stated that U.S. Armed Forces members have voiced opinions against the aggressive U.S. policy in Panama, and that in the wake of the "Market Square" exercises, there is the rumor that there is a climate of uncertainty over the possibility of a real action after this maneuver.

It has also been noted that signs and leaflets have appeared at the headquarters of the 82d Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, expressing the U.S. officers' and soldiers's rejection of new aggressive adventures in Latin America.

Commentary on Intensification of U.S. Sanctions

PA1509161489 Panama Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Station Commentary: "Who is Talking to Us About Democracy?"]

[Text] International news dispatches have in the past few days reported about the intensification of U.S. Government sanctions against Panama. They have reported that the United States cancelled our sugar quota; that Panamanian U.S. bank accounts are still frozen; that upstanding Panamanians, who want a free and sovereign nation, can no longer maintain economic, financial, and commercial relations with the government of George Bush; that a black list contains the names of U.S. enemies.

In other words, the disrespect and enslavement of our country is being diversified and deepened in an attempt to—speaking in bullfighting lingo—give us the final sword thrust. On top of this, internal enemies gathered within the opposition are rejoicing over the most recent measures adopted by the establishment against our country.

The entire world is wondering: Why so much hatred toward the people of a small country which is not a U.S. enemy? Why so much hatred toward a people who until 2 years ago had maintained cordial relations with the United States? There is a simple answer: These people turned down a request at a certain point in time to participate in unjust actions against a fraternal people.

That is why they are attacking us by claiming, among other things, that ours is not a democratic nation. But who is talking to us about democracy? Who has supported so many dictatorial regimes throughout Latin American history?

Eduardo Galeano, author of "The Open Veins of Latin America," has also asked: Who is talking to Panama about democracy? The fact is that the United States has no moral authority to point an accusing finger at us. That country's sole interest—and its domination of Latin America has shown this—is to pursue its interests abroad to maintain the empire.

We are paying a high price, but will continue to resist because the slogan not a single step backward encourages us to seek a better future for our children.

Noriega Visits Town on Costa Rican Border

PA1709192289 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 17 Sep 89

[From the weekly Panama Defense Forces program "Everything for the Fatherland"]

[Text] On 15 September, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], visited Paso de Canoa, a town on the Costa Rican border, where he participated in the Costa Rican-Panamanian co-fraternity festival in commemoration of the Central American countries' 168th anniversary of independence, which took place on 15 September 1821.

The event, enhanced by the presence of Her Majesty Vielka I [festival queen], began on 9 September and ends today, 17 September.

Gen Noriega took advantage of the festival to meet with Paso de Canoa businessmen. Present at the meeting were Colonel Manuel Antonio Vilchez, chief of the Costa Rican Civil Police southern command; Attorney Orvelinda Mendoza, a judge from the Corredores area in Costa Rica; customs and immigration officials, and a group of Costa Rican merchants who have businesses in (Cuervito).

In an atmosphere of brotherhood and friendship, hosts and visitors exchanged views regarding the good relations that exist between Panama and Costa Rica and the border area's future. Both Costa Ricans and Panamanians agreed that Paso de Canoa, a productive area for both nations, should be an area of peace and development, and should never be used as a bridge for war and dissension among the two neighboring countries.

Lieutenant Colonel Luis del Cid, chief of the 5th military zone, Chiriqui Province authorities, and FDP friends were present at the meeting.

President Rodriguez Holds First Cabinet Meeting

PA1509140389 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 15 Sep 89 p 11

[Text] President Francisco Rodriguez held his first cabinet meeting on 14 September with a review of the country's economic situation, the establishment of short- and medium-term goals and strategies, a report on international relations, and an assessment of administrative aspects of agencies such as the National Port Authority, the National Water and Sanitation Institute, and the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification.

Planning and Economic Policy Minister Gustavo R. Gonzalez reviewed the country's economic situation as a result of the U.S. aggression, which forces the government to implement a National Development Plan with short- and medium-term goals and specific programs that will result in the application of coherent measures between 1989 and 1991. According to Gonzalez, these measures could bring about effective economic changes and strengthen our national identity.

He emphasized that to carry out these programs to recover our economy, the government must best use the real resources the country has.

For his part, Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter [title and name as published] explained the international situation clearly. He discussed Panama's outlook with regard to its international bilateral and multilateral relations in the light of doctrines and traditions of international law and the diplomatic policy of individual countries.

The foreign minister also discussed what went on at the nonaligned summit in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. At the nonaligned summit, Panama established several and valuable contacts with other countries it wants to get closer to in the search for new markets for its products or in an effort to strengthen relations to promote bilateral agreements that are very important for the future.

He also presented an outlook of what will happen at the UN and OAS general assemblies to be held soon.

Government Seeks Other Markets for Sale of Sugar

PA1509143589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1218 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Panama, 15 Sep (AFP)—It has been officially announced that Panama will soon be placing 100,000 quintals of sugar on markets in Latin America, France, and the FRG because of its loss of the U.S. market.

The United States suspended the purchase of 30,573 tons of sugar from Panama as part of its economic sanctions against the country to force the removal of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces.

Mateo Castillero, director of the La Victoria Sugar Mill Corporation, said that 2,000 tons of sugar will be sold to France. He added: "We are negotiating with other friendly countries in Europe and America for placement of our products. [no closing quotation marks as received]

There are five sugar mills in Panama. Two belong to the state and three are privately owned by the relatives of former President Eric Arturo Delvalle.

Castillero said that the sugar corporation is negotiating an agreement with Honduras for payment of its sizeable electricity debt.

Head of Opposition's EL SIGLO Arrested

PA1509181289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1736 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 15 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian opposition sources reported that Jaime Padilla Beliz, a lawyer and the chairman of the board of directors of the opposition newspaper EL SIGLO, which was closed down in February 1988, was arrested today by members of the military security.

Padilla is also a leader of the Authentic Liberal Party (PLA). Guillermo Endara, presidential candidate during the annulled 7 May elections, is also a member of the PLA.

Padilla's arrest has been denounced by EL SIGLO director Felix Ochi, who told ACAN-EFE that military security (G-2) broke the glass doors in Padilla's Panama City offices when they went to arrest him.

This information was confirmed by PLA leaders, who added that they did not know why Padilla was arrested.

A sergeant on guard at the Panama Defense Forces G-2 headquarters was approached by ACAN-EFE regarding the arrest. He said the office had no information regarding this case.

Chairman 'Exiled' to Venezuela

PA1709001689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2337 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Jaime Padilla Beliz, the board chairman of the opposition daily EL SIGLO that was closed down in February 1988, left today for Venezuela, "exiled" after having been arrested by military security forces, an opposition source reported today.

Raquel Gomez, member of the Panamanian Civic Crusade, told ACAN-EFE that Padilla Beliz himself told her to notify the Panamanian media that he was leaving "in exile."

When asked to provide more details about the efforts to obtain the release of the newspaper chairman and his subsequent trip to Caracas, the source reiterated that "he only told me to announce that fact."

Padilla is also a leader of the Authentic Liberal Party (PLA), of which Guillermo Endara, the main opposition leader and presidential candidate in the annulled May elections, is also a member.

Padilla's arrest was announced by EL SIGLO director Felix Ochi, who reported that the military broke the doors of Padilla's Panama City office when they went to arrest him.

The report was confirmed by PLA leaders, who said they did not know why Padilla had been arrested. Meanwhile, the military said they had no information in this respect.

Opposition's Arias Rejects 'Armed Insurrection'

PA1509184889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2155 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Christian Democratic leader Ricardo Arias Calderon, one of the main opposition leaders, today rejected the possibility of reaching power through an "armed insurrection" similar to that of Cuba and Nicaragua.

"But that does not rule out the possibility that small groups may emerge to attempt to stage violence on their own...whoever sows the wind will reap the whirlwind," he noted.

At a talk held today in the Panamanian capital, the opposition leader also dismissed the possibility that an "armed invasion" by a foreign country can be a solution to the crisis.

According to Arias, a foreign intervention would signify "a trauma" for the Panamanian's nationalist feelings, would involve a "high cost" and would endanger the country's development.

The Christian Democratic leader attributed the fact that many Panamanians sometimes wish there would be a U.S. military intervention to "an understandable desperation" to put an end to the regime and to get General Manuel Antonio Noriega to step down as Panama Defense Forces commander.

Arias considered that Panama's best option "to achieve democratization" is through a "strategy of joint political pressure" both internally and abroad.

The Panamanian regime, he added, already has a negative image. It is isolated nationally and internationally and does not have a political platform. According to Arias, these factors worsened when provisional President Francisco Rodriguez took office on 1 September.

What remains now, he said, is for the " regime to crumble," which began on 16 March 1988 when a group of officers staged a thwarted military coup against General Noriega.

PDC Head: No Future Without Democratization

PA1509172289 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The Panamanians' only objective is the country's democratization, Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon said during a meeting with the Rotary Club to discuss the topic of experiences on dialogue and Panama's political future.

[Begin Arias recording] Our fundamental objective is and has to be the effective democratization of our fatherland, because the reality is basically the same. The objective of democratization is not just a desirable objective which can be changed. It is important that we understand the point that the objective of democratization is the only objective we Panamanians can have. If, because it became impossible to reach this objective and we all decided to give it up, the situation in the country would not change. There cannot be reconciliation in the country unless this is done based on democratization. The country's economy cannot be reconstructed unless this is based on democratization. The country cannot fulfill the role of attaining the full nationalization of our canal unless this is based on democratization. Democratization has become—by virtue of the events all of us have endured and continue enduring—the key for the future of the country. There is no future for Panama without democratization. [end recording]

Dr Arias Calderon mentioned three strategies for democratization which have been used in fraternal nations:

1. The armed insurrection.
2. The military invasion.
3. The accumulation of domestic and international pressure.

Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon said he agrees with the third strategy.

[Begin Arias recording] This is the strategy that has rendered the best results on our continent, with significant variations according to the circumstances. It is a strategy that consists of combining national, civic, political, socio-economic, and cultural forces in broad democratization alliances that receive, welcome, and integrate all those willing—at a specific and decisive moment—to build democracy together. It is a strategy that consists of combining domestic pressure with solidarity from a broad sector of the international community. [end recording]

Investigation of Father Van Kleef's Death Begun

PA1809004089 Panama City PANORAMA CATOLICO in Spanish 17 Sep 89 p 4

[Text] Legal proceedings to clarify the murder of Father Nicolas Van Kleef have begun 4 months after his death. A few days ago, Jan van Kleef, Father van Kleef's brother, gave a team of lawyers the power to begin the legal proceedings.

Now that Father Nick's brother has given the Paulist Congregation in Panama the power to take action, a private charge will be made. In this way, the incident that shocked the world, especially the Panamanian people, will be investigated.

Jan van Kleef said that Father Nick's murder was a "tremendous blow" to his family, "especially because Father Nick was in a wheelchair and physically impaired." Father Nick's family feels that his death was unwarranted.

Over the next few days, the Paulist Congregation will announce the steps it will take to clear up the death of Father Nick.

Argentina

Duhalde: Government 'Attentive' to Drug Cartels

PY1609232989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2249 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Salta, 16 Sep (TELAM)—Argentine Vice President Eduardo Duhalde has said that the theory that "the Colombian drug cartels intend to use our country as a base for their operations cannot be discarded; it would be naive on our part to ignore this possibility."

He added that "there is as of yet no evidence of their incursion into northern Argentina, but the government is very attentive, especially regarding land purchases." [passage omitted]

Duhalde made these remarks in an interview published in today's issue of the Salta newspaper EL TRIBUNO.

U.S. Antidrug Aid to Colombia Criticized

PY1509165489 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1332 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Sep (DYN)—Raul Carignano, Foreign Ministry Secretary for Latin American affairs, today denied that President Carlos Menem and Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo will visit Chile in the immediate future. Carignano added that Menem will "surely" visit Chile for the inauguration of the new government in March.

Carignano implicitly disagreed with the antidrug aid and advisory assistance that the United States intends to extend to Colombia by saying that Argentina will provide whatever cooperation "Colombia may request. There is nothing else we can do there."

In statements to Radio Continental, Carignano said that he visited Santiago and that he met with Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, with whom he talked about the beginning of operations of "the commission that was created following the Beagle cooperation accord." The commission is tasked with resolving several pending bilateral issues.

"I also took advantage of the visit to meet with leaders of the parties that are participating in the electoral process. I met with representatives of pro-government candidate Buchi, and in the evening I had dinner with Chilean opposition representatives," he said.

Carignano explained that among the subjects analyzed in those meetings were bilateral relations, the Latin American integration proposed by Argentina, and the future of the continent's southern end.

Asked about a possible visit to Chile by Menem, he said that in the first half of March the Argentine president will "surely" go for the inauguration of the government that will put an end to Pinochet's 13-year government.

Concerning the Colombian Government's struggle against drug trafficking, he termed unlikely any initiative for the creation of a joint security force of the Americas to check drug traffickers' bid for power.

He said that the creation of such a force would open the possibility for future "political action in favor or to the detriment of some parties or national interests."

Bolivia

Government Officials Comment on Bennett Plan

Foreign Troop Request Possible

PY1609203989 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Sep 89 p 7

[Excerpts] Santa Cruz, 9 Sep (PRESENCIA)—Jaime Paz Zamora has said here that there are no contradictions in his government regarding labor policy, and that this policy is being formulated in accordance with current laws.

He made this remark in response to questions from journalists who were prompted by the remarks of Labor Minister Oscar Zamora Medinacelli, who claimed that private businessmen are reluctant to observe labor laws, as demonstrated by their refusal to stop implementing the free hiring system imposed by the previous government. [passage omitted]

Paz denied that his administration was responsible for the inflationary issuance of money, but he admitted the existence of inflationary "pressure" a few months before the change of government. Paz said the inflation rate is under control "despite the economic crisis" and that "this minimum inflation rate among the Latin American countries will be maintained. [no closing quotation mark as published].

Noting that the government's policy on the production of coca and the struggle against drug trafficking will be "coordinated" and implemented "in accordance with Bolivian interests [no closing quotation mark as published]. Paz expressed his confidence that better results will be achieved this way. He also emphasized that an attempt will be made to make a better impression on "foreign interlocutors."

Regarding the possibility of having foreign troops in the country in keeping with the scheduled joint military operation between Bolivia and the United States, the Bolivian president said that, if necessary, "the approval of the National Congress will be requested."

Iturralde on U.S. Antidrug Plan

PY1509150289 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Sep 89 p 1

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde has said that he does not believe that the "government of national unity" will ask the U.S. military to join the antidrug fight in our territory.

"At this time we have no plans in this regard," Iturralde told journalists accredited to the Foreign Ministry. He added that the National Council against drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking (CONALID) has initially approved the "Bennett" plan. He said that the $40.9 million in aid that President George Bush announced to support Bolivia's military antidrug campaign is a contribution to the Defense Ministry and the Armed Forces.

Iturralde said that the U.S. aid may come in the form of equipment, adding that even though the subject was not analyzed during CONALID's first meeting on 7 September, it could have been debated last night.

Asked whether the Armed Forces, with U.S. support, will intensify their participation in the antidrug struggle, the minister replied: No, they will not. The United States is providing additional equipment to the Armed Forces. He said that the most appropriate source for clarifying the issue is the defense minister.

The foreign minister denied that the restructuring of the agencies that control drug trafficking and drug addiction will result in the creation of new mechanisms.

He explained that the restructuring will result in better coordination, which has thus far been insufficient, and that CONALID is analyzing the future organization of antidrug agencies.

Iturralde said that the fact that U.S. aid has been made conditional on the good faith and efficiency of the fight against drug trafficking is a new criterion of the Bush administration.

With this new criterion, consumer countries share part of the responsibility. There are comments on the need to ratify the Vienna Convention, which states that consuming and producing countries should share the responsibility," Iturralde said.

He said that with the new criterion, the countries that are making successful control efforts may receive more aid.

Ministers Comment on Aid

PY1609135689 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde has said that Bolivia will accept all the aid neccessary to implement programs to combat drug trafficking. The U.S. Government has decided to grant $2.2 billion [figure as heard] to those countries implementing programs to eradicate coca farming, and Bolivia is among those countries to receive this aid.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Iturralde has said that both the U.S. and Bolivian Governments are determined to combat drug trafficking and thus meet the expectations of the international community. He added: The government acknowledges the U.S. decision to combat this scourge and its desire to increase its participation in coca eradication programs.

In a related matter, Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco has denied an international news agency report that states that two groups of U.S. advisors are in Bolivia to help in the struggle against drug trafficking.

Capobianco explained that when he heard this international news agency report, which was issued yesterday, he immediately contacted the defense minister, the members of the high command, and the (?national police command), all of whom categorically denied the presence of any U.S. detachments in Bolivia.

Capobianco added that the reply issued by the high military command and the police command clearly shows that the struggle against drug trafficking in Bolivia is being carried out by Bolivian personnel with Bolivian resources.

Capobianco also said that next week he will meet with DEA and NAO [expansion unknown] officials to exchange information on current and future antidrug activities to be carried out by the Bolivian Government. He added: Bolivia needs greater financial support in its struggle against drug trafficking. He said this issue will also be discussed in his meetings with U.S. representatives.

Speaking about the struggle against drug trafficking, Capobianco said: Bolivia knows what it is doing: this is why foreign military aid is unnecessary.

Ormaechea Welcomes Assistance

PY1409135389 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Defense Minister Hector Ormaechea has said that in his opinion it is essential to complete the expansion of Potosi's Captain Rojas Airport and the Pati-Pati Hill facilities.

Ormaechea said that our country's engineering command is quite willing to work with Sucre's 5th Engineers Batallion to finish the job.

The defense minister reported that he had spoken with the commander of the U.S. Southern Command to analyze the possibility of cooperating in the works similar to the U.S. project in Potosi. Ormachea added that the U.S. commander had expressed his willingness to support other similar initiatives.

Minister Ormachea said that the command's budget [not further specified] takes into account civic projects like

the one in Potosi and stressed that if Bolivia wants U.S. cooperation it will have to submit a proposal. He noted, however, that all proposals require previous approval from Congress.

The minister did not give details, but said that there are 20 or more projects that could be built with the cooperation of our [as heard] Armed Forces. The minister concluded by saying that he views the U.S. willingness to cooperate with our country in such projects as good news.

Plan Termed 'Positive'

PY1509160089 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Sep 89 p 3

[All figures as published]

[Text] The National Council Against Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking [CONALIB] has termed the "Bennett" Plan sponsored by the U.S. Government for the antidrug struggle as positive. This plan provides for a $97.5-million contribution to Bolivia for specific allocations.

This announcement has been made by Information Minister Manfredo Kempff, who referred to the 7 September meeting 10 ministers held at the Foreign Ministry to evaluate the strategy disclosed by President Bush this midweek.

Kempff said that out of the $216 million allocated to the 1990 fiscal budget which begins in October, $97.5 million will be granted to Bolivia. This means that Bolivia will receive the largest economic contribution.

Of this amount, $40.9 million will be earmarked for the military aid, $30.8 million for economic assistance to develop alternative crops in coca-producing areas, $22.3 million for coca production repression, and $3.5 million for antidrug intelligence work.

There is also an obligation to grant between $60 and $70 million to Bolivia to eradicate coca plantations. This amount will be disbursed in keeping with existing bilateral agreements.

Bolivia might lose $11 million in compensation to peasants if by December it does not meet the terms of the law of special regulation for coca and controlled substances on reduction of a specified number of hectares of coca plantation.

The six points approved at the CONALID meeting are:

1. CONALID considers this plan positive because it shows a new approach to drug abuse and illegal drug trafficking, especially in consumption countries. This new approach reflects the concept of "shared responsibility" included in the Vienna Convention and the direct link between production and drug consumption.

2. CONALID believes that the Bennett Plan faithfully reflects the political will of the U.S. Government to promote a broad and decisive preventive and repressive drug campaign in the United States, which is seriously affected by drug consumption.

3. CONALID thinks that the plan clearly expresses the decision to promote—through a substantial increase in cooperation—the process of replacement, development of alternative crops, and eradication.

4. Bolivia will receive $97.5 million of the $261 million allocated in the 1990 fiscal budget to implement the plan. This means that the major financial contribution will be granted to Bolivia.

5. CONALID firmly supports the U.S. President's proposal to call for an Andean Pact Members presidential summit to coordinate an inter-American strategy to struggle against drug abuse and illegal drug trafficking.

6. Finally, CONALID thinks that the Bennett Plan is a challenge to the action agreed upon by the international community to fight more effectively this social scourge that affects human beings.

Ministry Studying Aid Applications

PY1509163089 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Sep 89 p 7

[Text] Defense Minister Hector Ormachea has not yet decided how to invest the $40 million that will be allocated to his ministry under the "Bennett" plan to fight drug trafficking.

The Bolivian Government has announced that Bolivia will receive $97.5 million of the $261 million the U.S. Government will invest in Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia in the 1990-91 fiscal year. Of the Bolivian share, $40 million will be turned over to the Defense Ministry.

Yesterday, the Defense Ministry affirmed that U.S. support for the defense sector clearly proves the U.S. Government's decision to have the Armed Forces directly involved in the antidrug fight.

Minister Ormachea said that the government is still studying whether the Bolivian Armed Forces will intervene in the fight against drug trafficking: "We are analyzing the situation, and in time we will release an official communique."

At this time, 80 percent of the antidrug fight is carried out by the police through the Mobile Units for Rural Areas (UMOPAR), which have barracks in various regions of the country.

The participation of the military in the antidrug fight is under study simultaneously with a plan to restructure the antidrug agencies the government intends to implement in the near future. The "Bennett" proposal—named after its author, William Bennett, the official responsible for antidrug policy in the United States—is also being put forward at this time.

General Jorge Moreira, Armed Forces commander in chief, affirmed yesterday that the military is willing to

directly participate in the antidrug fight if the government so decides, but added that "a measure of this nature requires close examination, because committing an entire institution to dealing with a conflictive problem is not an easy decision."

Gen Moreira affirmed that the Armed Forces are waiting for instructions from the government. If the government wants us to participate, we cannot refuse, he said.

A month ago, the Armed Forces requested to be disengaged from the antidrug fight since police organizations were performing the task.

The new military commander in chief has said that the military institution could provide support for the antidrug struggle so that U.S. troops did not have to intervene: "The presence of foreign troops from any country in the world is unnecessary in Bolivia. We are capable of fighting drug trafficking."

UMOPAR To Establish New Barracks in Chapare

PY1509151689 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Sep 89 Second Section p 1

[Excerpt] Chimore, Cochabamba, 9 Sep (PRESENCIA)—The Mobile Units for Rural Areas (UMOPAR) organization plans to establish five new barracks in "strategic locations" in the tropical area of this department in order "to totally control" drug production and trafficking.

Colonel Juan Soliz Brigues, UMOPAR commander in the Chapare zone, has told PRESENCIA that this measure, as well as other measures like the construction of an airstrip for small planes, will be taken as part of the struggle against drug trafficking.

Col Soliz said: "We want access to locations that are much farther from here, but we are facing transportation problems. Therefore, we want to select locations in the red zone. There we will establish small units, comprising 60 or 80 men each, in five different locations and, with this, we will have total control over the Chapare Zone." [passage omitted]

MNR Refuses To Let Ayllon Take Ambassadorship

PY1509173689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0452 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] La Paz, 14 Sep (EFE)—The opposition Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, MNR, today forbade its member Julio Garret Ayllon, former Bolivian vice president, from accepting the post of Bolivian ambassador to France.

Garret, who was Paz Estenssoro's vice president for 4 years, was appointed ambassador to France by current Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora. The appointment was approved by the Senate and had the support of the International Policy and Foreign Relations Committee of the Bolivian Congress.

However, the MNR national executive board reviewed and rejected Garret's request for permission to represent Paz Zamora's administration in Paris, according to Guillermo Bedregal, MNR leader and former foreign minister.

Juan Luzio, senator for one of the two ruling parties, the Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN], today said that the MNR must act in keeping with the "constructive opposition" approach that it promised to take on 6 August when Jaime Paz Zamora of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) was sworn in as president of Bolivia.

Garret is also former Bolivian ambassador in the Soviet Union and a former president of the Andean Parliament. Moreover, he is considered one of the founders of the Simon Bolivar Andean University headquartered in Sucre, Bolivia.

Navy Appoints New Joint Staff, Department Heads

PY1609165689 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Sep 89 p 8

[Text] Navy Commander Anibal Gutierrez yesterday installed the new joint staff chief and the new department heads.

Rear Admiral Rolando Herrera was appointed Navy joint staff chief, and Rear Admiral Mario Montano was appointed inspector general.

Captain Hugo Rivero was installed as Personnel Department chief; Captain Waldo Vasquez, as Intelligence Department chief; Captain Julio Molina, as Operations Department chief; Captain Luis Daza, as Logistics Department chief; and Captain Alfredo Moran, as Administrative Department chief.

Colombia

Homemade Rocket Launched Against U.S. Embassy

PA1809043289 Paris AFP in Spanish 0410 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 17 Sep (AFP)—The Colombian police reported that a homemade rocket was launched at the headquarters of the U.S. Embassy in Bogota this evening. No injuries or damage were reported.

The rocket partially perforated one of the walls of the embassy, but did not explode.

The already tight security surrounding the embassy since the war against drug trafficking was declared was stepped up immediately and traffic and pedestrians were kept out of the area.

This attack followed the two dynamite explosions that occurred early Sunday evening in the northern area of Bogota where one person was slightly injured and approximately 30 stores were damaged.

During the Belisario Betacur administration (1982-1986), when several Colombian drug traffickers were extradited to the United States, the U.S. Embassy was attacked in a similar manner. No injuries were reported during that attack. Later, however, a bomb exploded in the embassy's parking lot killing a Colombian woman who was standing in line to get a visa.

As in other attacks of this kind reported over the past few weeks in Bogota and in other cities, no organization has claimed responsibility for this attack; however, the press and the authorities are blaming persons in the service of the drug lords.

Columnist Says War on Drugs Also Belongs to U.S.

PA1609170789 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Sep 89 p 5-A

["Profile" column by Ayatollah: "Are We Going To Be Left by Ourselves?"]

[Text] I pray to God that when the Americans have to face a worsening of one of their conflicting international fronts around the world, they will not leave us alone in this war. It is a war that belongs to them more than it does to us. Despite the statements made by President Virgilio Barco, who announced the extradition of drug traffickers by adopting administrative measures, and despite the statements made by U.S. President George Bush on television, we are left with the feeling that perhaps the message was not made very clear: The challenge presented by the drug lords to the Colombian people is also a challenge to the United States.

I say that the message was not made very clear because the $250 million allocated for the cocaine-producing countries (Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia) for next year in the Bennett plan against drugs is simply and plainly a ridiculous amount, which is unexplainable. It is true that they have sent us planes, helicopters, bulletproof vests, and other supplies, but for what type of war? The bombers seem to be more useful in a conventional war against guerrillas and not for a war against the drug traffickers. Will the A-37 planes be useful in the fight against the acts of terrorism promoted by the drug traffickers in the city of Medellin? I am sure there are many other things that could be more useful to us and that could at least prevent us from being killed.

For example, we need support, cooperation, and sophisticated technology in the improvement of our intelligence services, just as the British have offered. The Americans and the Europeans could contribute greatly in this front because they have been fighting terrorism longer than we have.

Nevertheless, we will have to take a look at the list of things that the Colombian Government requested from the United States so we can learn about the details of the strategies that will be used in trying to win this war. However, the most powerful weapon the Americans can use is the one that can put an end to the profitable cocaine business and to the consumers who have engraved their initials in each one of the bullets fired against the thousands of brave Colombians who have dared to face the drug traffickers.

In addition to the weapons they may send and in addition to the logistical support they may provide us, what are they going to do with the huge amount of fresh money that is moving freely in the U.S. banking system? The salaries of the hired assassins at the service of the drug lords and the weapons they use are paid for with money that is obtained and laundered in the complex financial network in the United States.

We must really convince ourselves that the Americans have understood that this war belongs to them. Colombians are only the victims. Europeans will soon convince themselves that the war also belongs to them. The drug traffickers have now turned their eyes to Europe because the U.S. market is saturated.

There are still many questions to be answered. We have only seen the violent side of the drug-trafficking world. At least that is the one that we have seen the most. We must face without delay the far-reaching effects of a multimillion-dollar enterprise, whose destabilizing capacity at the international level has been fully demonstrated.

Barco, Ecuador's Borja Meet at Airport 15 Sep

PA1709195789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0130 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Report on exclusive interview with Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja by (Azucena Leiva) at Bogota's El Dorado International Airport on 15 September]

[Text] Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja met last night for 1 hour with Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas while Borja was on his way back to Quito. The two presidents spoke on topics of mutual interest. On the topic of the Colombian Government's emergency plan to seek the reestablishment of the coffee pact, President Borja outlined his country's position:

[Begin Borja recording] We will do all we can to get the coffee agreement renewed—restored would be the right word. As you can see, prices have dropped and the only way left is to seek a long-term agreement between coffee sellers and buyers. We are interested that this, in fact, occurs, so we will do all we can to reach that goal. [end recording]

President Borja also spoke about our country's situation. He said that this is an overall struggle and that Colombia will come out ahead. He stated this at the meeting of the nonaligned countries.

[Begin Borja recording] I said that this was an overall fight by all Colombian society—all its democractic institutions, all its vital forces—against the drug trafficking-mafia, and that I had no doubt that Colombia will come out ahead. [end recording]

President Barco and his Ecuadoran colleague Rodrigo Borja spoke on the need to fix a date for the Andean group meeting that will take place in Ecuador at the end of 1989, to be attended by delegates from Spain and the EEC.

Air Force To Shoot Down Unidentified Aircraft

PA1609004389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Colombian Air Force [FAC] commands and pilots today received orders to stand ready to take off, intercept, capture, or shoot down unidentified or hostile aircraft flying over the nation's territory. The government adopted these measures in connection with the struggle against drug trafficking. Here is a report by Amparo Monton:

[Begin Monton recording] The order was issued by the Colombian Air Force commands, which also decided to use ground-to-air missiles and other weapons aboard FAC aircraft. According to the instructions manual sent to all air bases, orders are given to capture, destroy, or shoot down planes in 11 instances, which include the following: When planes fly over forbidden or restricted areas; in the event of unauthorized landings; when the [word indistinct] do not establish radio contact with the interceptor plane flying over them; when aircraft land in places not authorized by the Civil Aeronautics Office; when they land on clandestine airstrips.

Instructions were also issued to all air commands to keep two armored aircraft on alert at all times either on the ground or in the air. The only event in which the shooting down of a hostile aircraft must not be considered is when such an action would endanger innocent people or occupied buildings.

In addition, the FAC Command divided the procedure into four phases, namely: detection, identification, interception, and destruction. These measures will apply to all suspicious-looking aircraft, including planes of Colombian or foreign registry. [end recording]

Military Chiefs Named for 2 Municipalities

PA1509193889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] As of today, Colonel Jaime Humberto Uscategui will begin work as military chief in Pacho, Cundinamarca, on the Chihuahua farm that was seized from Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. The same position will be held in Puerto Boyaca by Colonel Jose Manuel Garcia.

With the new state of siege decrees issued yesterday, 14 September, the government declared those municipalities to be emergency and military operations zones.

The decree dismissing mayors and replacing them with military men was abolished. However, a new decree, while failing to dismiss them, does restrict their mayoral activities. To begin with, they are stripped of all their police authority, which had allowed them to maintain public order. Moreover, the military commander is authorized to suspend for up to 60 days, as a preventive measure, any municipal employee who refuses to cooperate with the authorities, except the mayor. However, the military commander will be able to ask the governor to suspend the mayor, or even fire him. For the time being, in case of an urgent situation the two officers are authorized to issue orders and administrative arrangements for immediate execution.

Also, in accordance with the functions established in the decrees, the officers are authorized to take command of prisons within their territories, to actively pursue fugitives in the area, and to arrest individuals in accordance with a judge's orders. The Attorney General's Office and the Presidential Advisory for Human Rights will each designate an official to ensure that the functions assigned to the officers are strictly and legally fulfilled.

Meanwhile, the government issued two other decrees authorizing military penal judges to search areas where it is presumed there are individuals or there are clues of the existence of individuals guilty of drug trafficking or any related crimes. The government also established that attorneys defending individuals sought for extradition should personally file their powers of attorney at a judicial office. The office has allotted 2.1 billion pesos to purchase and maintain equipment for the restoration of public order. The money will be transferred to a special account the government opened for this purpose a few days ago.

Meanwhile, Government Minister Orlando Vasquez Velasquez said a few moments ago that there will be new military advisers, in addition to those named in Pacho and Puerto Boyaca, if public order problems demand it.

[Begin Vasquez recording] To the extent that security organizations and the respective authorities in the departments request and recommend these measures, the national government will be forced to adopt them for a sole purpose: to restore public order, which has been extremely problematic over the past few weeks. Therefore, the extraordinary measures issued during the current state of siege, a state of siege which has been in effect for the past 5 years, will be implemented as needed. I repeat: The extraordinary measures will be implemented in order to once and for all eradicate the calamities that have so seriously affected public order. [end recording]

Ministry Confines Military Units to Quarters

PA1609033389 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0308 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—By direct order of the national Defense Ministry, all military units in the country have been placed on a first-degree alert and confined to barracks. The measure was adopted by the government as a result of the disruption of public order in the country during the past few weeks.

Israeli Envoy Rules Out Mercenaries' Extradition

PA1709230489 Paris AFP in Spanish 2220 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 17 Sep (AFP)—Gideon Tadmor, Israeli ambassador to Colombia, today ruled out the possibility of an eventual extradition of Israeli instructors in Colombia and recalled that between the two countries there is no agreement that allows for such requests to be made.

In statements to the privately owned Caracol radio station, Tadmor said that the instructors came to train peasants or members of paramilitary groups.

Likewise, and coinciding with statements by General Miguel Maza Marquez, director of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), Tadmor said that the instructors entered Colombia illegally.

The diplomat said that his country learned of the presence of the mercenaries in Colombia through the press and warned that at no time was the Israeli Embassy in Bogota aware of the presence of the Israelis in Colombia.

"Our citizens cannot be extradited, but they are to be tried in Israel," Ambassador Tadmor said.

He added that the investigations in his country are headed in the right direction and that the Israeli Attorney General's office has received the results of the investigations.

Tadmor repeated that his country was not aware of the presence of the Israeli citizens in Colombia.

Colombian authorities are currently waging a hard battle against the drug lords, especially the so-called Medellin and Cali cartels that have hired guns to sow terror throughout the country, killing senators, soldiers, judges, magistrates, and well-known political personalities.

Apparently, Israeli citizen Albert Hubiz Hazbum was responsible for training the mercenaries.

FRG Embassy Denies Links With Drug Mafia

PA1509143989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1739 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 14 September (DPA)—The FRG Embassy in Bogota today rejected a report that some of its officials are linked to the powerful drug-trafficking mafias that operate in Colombia.

The report was published in the German weekly "WELT AM SONNTAG," which based its information on Federal Investigations Office sources who stated that some officials in the diplomatic mission assigned to Bogota are linked to drug trafficking and have participated in the operations of the Medellin Cartel, the biggest drug-trafficking organization in the world.

An FRG Embassy spokesman who was questioned by DPA said: "We know nothing about a mission member who has been linked to drug trafficking."

According to the German publication, approximately $20 million obtained by the Medellin Cartel for their illegal activities have been transferred from banks in Colombia to financial institutions in Panama and Luxembourg.

Last week, the Colombian Government, which has declared "war" on the cocaine gangs, extradited to the United States Eduardo Martinez Romero, the alleged "financial head" of the Medellin Cartel. Romero is accused of being the "brain" behind the cartel's money-laundering operations.

At present, Martinez Romero is being charged at an Atlanta court for allegedly laundering more than $1.2 billion in the Banco de Occidente de Panama. According to "WELT AM SONNTAG," this bank sent the drug-trafficking funds to the Deutsch-Suedamerikanische Bank.

The drug trafficker's extradition has caused tension and anxiety in Colombia because the drug traffickers issued a communique wherein they threatened to kill 10 judges for each Colombian sent to another country.

The FRG Embassy spokesman added that the alleged links of embassy officials with the mafia "were invented by a news agency—not DPA—that wrote the information in Bonn." The information was later published by "WELT AM SONNTAG," which, the spokesman said, was a newspaper "that was not very important."

So far, the "war" being carried out by Colombian officials has led to the capture of several people who are connected to the drug cartel and the confiscation of numerous properties belonging to the "capos" Pablo Escobar Gaviria and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, the biggest mafiosos in the world, according to Washington and Bogota.

Drug Trafficker Promises To Fight to Death

PA1509164989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1426 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Madrid, 15 Sep (EFE)—"We are going to fight to the death. What would you do if war were declared against you?" drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha "El Mexicano" asked a Colombian reporter.

The telephone interview took place on 24 August, but the recording was seized by the police, who banned its disclosure. The full text of the interview is published today by the Spanish weekly "INTERVIU."

"We no longer have anything to lose in this country. We had something, but it was taken away. It is very simple: If we have nothing, no one is entitled to anything. We will see how far this goes," the Medellin Cartel's military chief said.

The Colombian drug trafficker underlined that "they have not taken away from us that which produces; in other words, the farms. You know a farm yields nothing, but if we own them it is as an investment and so the people can work...but they have not taken away our

cocaine business, nor have they taken away our dollars...our money is not in the United States."

"Seventy percent of the Colombian people, directly or indirectly, work for or benefit from drug trafficking," he added.

Asked if there is any way to end the violence, "El Mexicano" answered that "to stop is to talk." He added: "We are fighting, trying to be heard, trying to get them to talk with us."

Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha said with regard to the cocaine business that "there is no market better than the gringos. Yet, they get angry with us."

Rodriguez Gacha flatly denied that the drug traffickers will surrender to Colombian authorities, because, he said, "we have been trampled by the judges. Nowadays they offer judges consulates or embassies to get them to condemn us."

"El Mexicano" believes that an alliance with the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] or the ELN [Army of National Liberation] guerrillas is unlikely, because "our principles would not allow us to do so."

Regarding a future solution to the violence, he said that "it is up to the government now. The government must make proposals. We have made proposals: Surrender the laboratories and stop working."

Rodriguez Gacha says he is willing to surrender "everything" because he no longer needs to work.

Army Arrests Pablo Escobar's Bodyguards

PA1609175989 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 9 Sep 89 pp 1, 7-A

[Text] In the last few hours, members of the Colombian 4th Infantry Brigade arrested four more close collaborators of Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria. The Colombian authorities charge Escobar with being the chief of the so-called Medellin Cartel.

A 4th Infantry Brigade spokesman has reported that after patient investigations, the Army succeeded in locating the members of the self-styled Out of Love for Medellin Group. The members of this group were in charge of the security of Escobar Gaviria and his wife, Victoria Eugenia Henao Vallejo.

The military spokesman said that the detainees were identified as Carlos Mauricio Restrepo Velez, aka Fernando Calle; Carlos Arturo Garcia Osorio; Gabriel Jaramillo Arango; and Hector Fernando Pineda Garcia.

According to the investigations, the four men worked as bodyguards for Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria.

Recently, the four men had been ordered to protect Victoria Eugenia Henao Vallejo, aka La Tata, and wife of Escobar Gaviria.

The men were taken to 4th Infantry Brigade installations and during the next few hours, they will be placed before a judge so that their legal situation can be defined.

With the arrest of these men, the Colombian troops have arrested a total of five close collaborators of Escobar Gaviria in Antioquia Department.

Previously, the authorities had arrested Nicolas Gonzalez Cardona, the pilot of the Medellin Cartel chief.

The pilot's arrest is linked to investigations carried out in regard to the murder of Valdemar Franklin Quintero, chief of the Antioquia Police Department.

General Jose Gregorio Torres reported that the pilot was at the personal service of Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria and flew planes to the United States.

The official communique said: "This individual is permanently in touch with other important cartel members, including Carlos Mario Montoya Arenas, Juan Pablo Correa Gonzalez, Ruben Dario Arango Restrepo, and William Alfonso Guidales Patino. The pilot is in touch with other important capos whose names are omitted, because they are part of the on-going investigation.

As a result of the investigations of Col Valdemar Franklin Quintero's murder, the Army recently arrested former National Police lieutenant, retired, German Gonzalez Ramirez. Gonzalez is charged with involvement with individuals linked to the drug-trafficking world.

The former officer was also charged with attempted penetration of State Security forces by pretending to be a car salesman.

It was also learned that a Medellin criminal judge ordered the release of Luis Fernando Galeano Berrio, otherwise known at El Negro, who had been charged with being the bookkeeper for Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, aka the Mexican.

In fact, the 4th district criminal judge ordered the release of Galeano Berrio after the hearing [injurada].

Members of the 4th Infantry Brigade arrested El Negro at La Ceja, Antioquia Department.

It was learned that no local or foreign authority had requested Galeano Berrio. That was another reason why the judge released him.

Secret Police Discover Drug Lords' Code

PA1709220389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0146 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Report by Ana Cerrud]

[Text] Bogota, 15 Sep (EFE)—Colombia's secret police have discovered some of the "key to codes" used by the drug traffickers, who use aliases and change the meaning of words to communicate by radio.

The Administrative Department of Security (DAS) has prepared a confidential report to which EFE has gained access, which contains a "glossary" of terms used by the mafia in their communications, the seals used by the different cocaine packers, and a list the labs that produce cocaine.

A "car" is a small airplane that flies to Miami or Bolivia, a "truck" is a DC-3 cargo airplane, "beer" is gasoline, and the "kitchen" is a laboratory.

To go in a "car" for a "long tour" to carry a "consignment" to "Dona Teresa's kitchen" means, more or less, to fly to the United States with a shipment of cocaine from one of the labs of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, the Medellin Cartel's operations chief.

To take someone for "a ride" because "he is sentenced to death [le cayo la raspa]" is the way drug traffickers and their paid assassins decree the death penalty by "rope," which in their language means shotgun or revolver.

"To scrape the tip [raspar los bornes]" means a shot to the temple, to "change the identification card" means to change the license plates on "hot" airplanes or vehicles discovered by the police, and to "lasso a young bull" means to capture someone.

"Everything is 100" means that the situation is normal, and "there are visitors" means that a region must be evacuated. "The company" is the criminal organization, be it in Cali or Medellin—the leading cocaine exporters in the world—and to negotiate "white bull calves" means that you are negotiating over a quantity of cocaine.

"Maribel" is the "basket" that is purchased in "influence peddling [canvalachefluencia]" of the drug trade, and the "jungle" is San Juan Bosco in Santander near the Venezuelan border.

The confidential DAS document also discloses other "important information concerning the organizations' top leaders," among whom are Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, whose aliases are "the Gentleman," "Madam Tere," and "Mister Andrew;" and Fabio Ochoa Vasquez.

Rodriguez Gacha, popularly known as "the Mexican," "is known for his courage." He practices horsemanship and plays soccer, a hobby he enjoys even on improvised courts in the middle of the jungle, and often "is accompanied by a former Colombian beauty queen."

The report is based on statements by detainees and deserters from among the ranks of the drug-trafficking mafias.

Continuing Violence in Bogota City Reported

2 Banks Attacked

PA1509131289 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1210 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Authorities have reported that dynamite attacks on two bank branches in northern and northwestern Bogota have injured one person and caused over 50 million pesos in property damage. A spokesman of the Bogota Metropolitan Police stated that the attacks were staged against the Banco Cafetero branch on 127th Street and the Corporacion de Ahorro y Vivienda in Crigua neighborhood. The police said Narciso Tarazona, a watchman at the Banco Cafetero, was injured, but not critically.

Various Bombs Explode

PA1609014589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0006 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] An explosive device went off at Quirigua Shopping Mall located on 92d Street, building No 82-A18 in Bogota. The explosion damaged various funds including Las Villas Funds, Colmena Funds, Davivienda, and the Agrarian Fund. The explosion also damaged nearby houses. The losses have not been estimated yet.

At the same time, another explosive device went off across from a Banco Cafetero branch on 128th Street and Northern Highway. The explosion destroyed the facade of the bank and injured watchman Narciso Tarasona.

Thus far, the authorities have been unable to find those responsible for the vandalous actions.

2 Policemen Killed 16 Sep

PA1609050189 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0431 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 15 Sep (REUTER)—Two policemen were killed today by unidentified gunmen in Bogota, while three bombs exploded in the southern city of Cali, the police have reported.

Two police officials, a sargent and a corporal, were killed in front of a house in the western suburb of the Colombian capital.

They were killed instantly in the attack, apparently staged by "subversives" and not drug traffickers, a police spokesperson reported.

In the southern city of Cali, the headquarters of the drug-trafficking cartel that is the rival of the Medellin Cartel, three bombs exploded in front of three banks, causing serious damage and slightly injuring seven people.

Two of the bombs exploded in the same place, a police spokesperson reported. Colombia has been gripped by a wave of attacks with bombs and killings related to drug trafficking since the "Extraditables," a group linked with

the Medellin Cartel, declared war on the Colombian Government and industrialists on 24 August in response to the campaign of repression announced by the government.

The Cali attacks, the first in the current drug war, could be an indication of the extent of the campaign of violence by the drug lords, which began in Medellin.

Earlier today, two bombs damaged five banks in Bogota, disrupting the peace that had prevailed in the capital for 10 days.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry reported that the Air Force will down any aircraft suspected of involvement in drug trafficking.

"Any aircraft that is detected flying without authorization or in a suspicious situation will be downed," a ministry spokesperson told REUTER.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1432 GMT on 16 September carries a Bogota-dateline item reporting that 3 policemen were killed tonight in Bogota and Medellin and that unidentified persons traveling in a blue vehicle opened fire on the installations of the newpaper EL SIGLO in the capital, but that nobody was wounded.]

Gunmen Unidentified

PA1609184789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota did not escape the terrorist actions of organized criminals on Friday night. Two National Police officers assigned to the DIJIN [Directorate of Judidial Police and Investigations] intelligence corps were shot to death as they passed by on a DIJIN motorcycle in front of a home in western Bogota.

The criminals intercepted Sergeant Carlos Julio Bonilla, who was driving the motorcycle, and Corporal Luis Alberto Chavez, as they entered the home. Both policemen died instantly. The paid assasins fled in a motorcycle and in a vehicle that awaited them a few meters away, according to witnesses.

Authorities carried out an intense operation in the city to locate the perpetrators of this latest crime.

Elsewhere, several armed individuals shot repeatedly at the newspaper EL SIGLO's facilities. This is a new act of harassment against the media. EL SIGLO editor Hipolito Hincapie was interviewed.

[Begin Hincapie recording] The incident took place at 2120. Individuals in a blue Renault 12 fired several times at the facilities. The facilities are as they were prior to 2120, and the employees are working as usual. [end recording]

The damage was minor and, fortunately, there were no victims, thanks to the prompt reaction of the Marines guarding the facilities.

2 Banks Destroyed 17 Sep

PA1709015789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0109 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Banks were the targets this afternoon of new terrorist attacks in Bogota. Until then, it was a quiet afternoon on this day of friendship and love. Two dynamite charges were detonated near the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] offices in the Palo Quemao neighborhood, destroying the branch offices of the Banco Popular and the Banco Santander. Two persons were slightly injured and damage is estimated at over 100 million pesos. The two bombs exploded at approximately 1700 in the branch offices of two banks, in Palo Quemao, just two blocks from the DAS offices. The explosion of 17 kg of dynamite destroyed the bank branches and damaged 20 neighboring stores.

The authorities are carrying out a vast operation throughout Bogota to find the individuals responsible for this attack.

20 Stores Damaged 18 Sep

PA1809023789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0146 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Two bombs exploded a few minutes ago in the Chapinero neighborhood in Bogota. The explosion took place in a branch office of the Colmena Corporation on 59th Street and 9th Avenue. This new terrorist action has left a toll of 1 person wounded and material damage to over 20 stores in the area.

Unfortunately, a new terrorist action has taken place in the capital city of the Republic. The first explosion occurred on 59th Street, between 13th and 7th Avenues. The second explosion took place at a bank branch on 60th Street and 7th Avenue. The first explosion, as you can now see, went off at the CONAVI [National Savings and Housing Corporation] branch, close to the offices of the Social Savings Fund. This bank was completely destroyed. We now see the work being done by the Bogota Fire Department.

An operation is being conducted on 60th Street and 7th Avenue, where the second bomb exploded. According to the authorities, no one was hurt in this new terrorist action.

Journalist Murdered in Buenaventura Port

PA1709032289 Paris AFP in Spanish 0241 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 16 Sep (AFP)—Colombian journalist Guillermo Gomez Murillo—a correspondent of the Bogota Liberal daily EL ESPECTADOR and the Cali conservative daily EL PAIS—was murdered tonight while watching television in his home at Buenaventura Port, 600 km southwest of Bogota, one of his brothers reported.

Two men who are being sought by the police went inside Gomez Murillo's home and shot him as he watched a television program, Diego Gomez Murillo told RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional], a private radio station for which the deceased also worked as a reporter.

"Guillermo had received death threats, therefore, he visited the police," his brother Diego said, adding he was shocked about the murder and did not know who had sent the threats.

Gomez Murillo is the fourth journalist murdered in the last 3 years in Buenaventura Port, the most important Colombian port on the Pacific Ocean.

Medellin Mayor Denies Presence of Foreign Troops

PA1509191889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1740 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Report by Nestor Castano; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] During an exclusive news conference for the foreign press, Medellin Mayor Juan Gomez Martinez said that the public order situation is returning to normal and that violence in Medellin had already hit rock bottom.

[Gomez] "The people of Medellin recognized that they were living in difficult times and decided to go back to normal. They are doing this, and I hope they will continue to do so."

Gomez Martinez also asked the foreign investors to remain in the city. The mayor trusts that business and the overall situation will slowly return to normal. In conclusion, Gomez Martinez said that he had no knowledge of the presence of foreign troops in Medellin or Antioquia Department.

[Gomez] "I heard the statements made by the mayor of El Penol, who said that he had heard people speaking with a funny accent and had seen tall blond people. I have not seen them. They must have gone straight to El Penol."

Meanwhile, it is not clear whether (Proinduplasticos, Ltd.), disappeared, merged, or has become (Pro-Industrial, S.A.), where this morning we were told that the Shapiro Kastner family, fined by the Exchange Control Superintendency [Superintendencia de Control de Cambios], has nothing to do with this company. The fact of the matter is that between 1981 and 1985 that company brought approximately $12 million into the country. This was supposedly in payment for plastic exports to Central America. However, those sales were never made. Therefore, it is believed that the company is a dollar-laundering center. The Exchange Control Superintendency fine, which amounts to 848 million pesos, can be appealed. This fine is higher than the record fine held by banker Jaime Michelsen Uribe. (Proinduplasticos) even got loans from PROEXPO [Export Promotion Institute] for its so-called exports to Panama and Central America.

Continuing Violence in Medellin Reported

PA1509140789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0538 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 14 Sep (AFP)—Only 24 hours after the lifting of the curfew, which was established to stop terrorism by drug traffickers, violence returned to this northwestern Colombian city today.

Police reported that cattleman Humberto Espinosa was kidnapped in a luxurious discotheque by five individuals claiming to be secret agents, and that two private guards were seriously wounded when they prevented an attack on a bank.

A garbage truck was also set on fire by unidentified individuals, bringing to 25 the number of such vehicles destroyed in the past 10 days.

The Army's 4th Brigade reported the arrest of 28 people, including 6 women, linked to the pro-Cuban Army of National Liberation (ELN) and the drug mafias. The authorities say they are responsible for recent acts of terrorism and vandalism here.

General Jose Gregorio Torres, commander of the brigade, said that the authorities found in their possession radios, explosives, weapons, and documents of great value to military intelligence.

'Terrorists' Attack Patrol

PA1609153889 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Medellin—A Metropolitan Police patrol was attacked last night in the northern part of the city by terrorists who detonated several explosive devices on the highway between Medellin and Bogota.

Patrol Car 316 was practically destroyed, and 1st Sergeant Luis Francisco Aristizabal Valencia and Policeman Antonio Baez Rodriguez suffered minor injuries, according to the medical bulletin given to Radio Cadena Nacional.

Cali Police Confined to Quarters After Bombings

PA1709021389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0110 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Report by Patricia Garcia]

[Text] In Cali, nine persons were injured and there is considerable damage following last night's terrorist attacks against some bank branches. Several charges of dynamite were detonated in several banks located in downtown Cali, capital of Valle del Cauca Department. Two military security officers are among the wounded.

These banks were the targets of terrorist explosive attacks last night in Cali. They are the Banco de

Santander in northeastern Cali and the La Vivienda Corporation near Caicedo Square, in the banking and commercial sector of Cali.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified police officer] The Metropolitan Police Command has decided to restrict to quarters all Cali policemen. I request that the citizens cooperate with the Metropolitan Police and provide any information they may have which could help effectively control these terrorist actions. [end recording]

Damage is estimated at 50 million pesos.

Terrorists Bomb Savings, Housing Corporations

PA1709140089 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1218 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Cali—Four dynamite attacks were staged almost simultaneously this morning in the capital city of Valle del Cauca Department. Watchman Jesus Mario Rios Grajales, 22, was killed.

The first device exploded at approximately 0115 on Third Avenue North and 44th Street, in an area where there is a shopping mall and several grills where a number of people were celebrating the day of love and friendship. It is here that a car bomb explosion caused the death of watchman Rios Grajales.

Five minutes later, another terrorist attack took place at the National Savings and Housing Corporation [Corporacion Nacional de Ahorro y Vivienda—CONAVI] headquarters on Third Avenue and 39th Street; a third explosion took place at the Popular Savings and Housing Corporation [Corporacion Popular de Ahorro y Vivienda—CORPAVI] on Third Avenue North and 45th Street.

Later, at approximately 0245, yet another explosion took place at a branch of the Savings and Housing Corporation [Corporacion de Ahorro y Vivienda—AHORRAMAS] on Third Avenue North and 45th Street, causing considerable damage.

These attacks raise the number of terrorist actions in this part of the country since 15 September to seven. Cali police are searching for a green jeep with license plates QX5098 in which, according to witnesses, the terrorists fled.

To conclude, it was reported that losses resulting from the four attacks against housing and savings corporations amount to several million [pesos].

Cesar Deputy, Friend Seriously Wounded

PA1709150489 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Aguachica, Cesar—Dimas Sampayo Noguera, deputy to the assembly for Cesar Department, was wounded by gunfire at his home last night together with a friend, Juan Pallares, who was also seriously wounded. Sampayo and Pallares were urgently admitted to the regional hospital and, according to the latest medical bulletin supplied to RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional], they are in serious condition.

Deputy Sampayo Noguera, a lawyer who graduated from the Jesuit University, was hit by four bullets in different parts of his body. Juan Pallares, who owns a repair shop, was seriously wounded on his left shoulder and doctors did a tracheotomy on him. Doctors from the Aguachica hospital did a colostomy and laparotomy on Deputy Sampayo. Both he and Pallares are in the post-operative stage and it is believed their condition will improve.

10 People Murdered in Boyaca Department

PA1609021989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0005 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Ten people including several emerald traders were murdered in San Rafael, Buena Vista Municipality, western Boyaca Department a few minutes ago.

The 10 people were murdered by a group of armed men, who subsequently disappeared in the area.

ELN Guerrillas, Army Clash; 9 Casualties

PA1809131689 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Three guerrillas of the so-called Army of National Liberation [ELN] were killed, while two others were wounded in clashes with the troops of the 4th Brigade in the southeastern Cauca area in Antioquia.

Brigadier General Jose Gregorio Torres Hernandez, commander of the 4th Brigade stationed in Medellin reported that in the Puerto Belgica District, a member of the Tomas group of the ELN, identified as Javier Martinez Pinzon, a native of Bucaramanga was killed. Two other subversives were wounded in this clash. Officials seized one pistol, 25 rounds of ammunition, and one outboard motor.

Elsewhere, in La Regada District in Salgar municipality in southeast Antioquia, two guerrillas identified as William Agudelo Alsater 27, and Luis Carlos Franco Munoz 22, members of the Ernesto Che Guevara group of the ELN, were killed in clashes with troops.

Army Actions in Middle Magdelena Region Noted

PA1609195889 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 10 Sep 89 pp 1, 3-A

[Text] Puerto Berrio, Antioquia—The military has dealt new blows to subversion in the middle Magdalena area by killing 18 guerrillas and dismantling 10 camps of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the M-19 [19 April Movement].

General Carlos Julio Gil Colorado, commander of the 14th Army Brigade, pointed out on 9 September that the

18 guerrillas were killed and the camps were dismantled as a result of the intense operations by the troops during the last few days.

Gen Gil Colorado also charged that the M-19 has not complied with the peace accords in the middle Magdalena region and that the FARC, under Braulio Herrera's command, is trying to regain or control areas in this part of the country.

He added that in fulfilling its constitutional task to defend the honor, lives and personal belongings of the people, the Army has intensified its operations in the middle Magdalena region, managing to dismantle 10 FARC and M-19 camps. In the clashes in the last few days in the rural areas of the municipalities of Bolivar and Landazuri in southern Santander, 18 guerrillas have died, and 30 weapons of various calibers, ammunition, explosives, and administrative material have been confiscated.

Within the framework of these operations, troops of the 14th Brigade under Gen Carlos Julio Gil Colorado's command have raided 43 different estates in the Antioquia and Santander middle Magdalena region. In statements to RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional], Gen Gil Colorado told reporters that the operations will continue to confront the terrorist offensive.

Finally, Gen Gil Colorado disclosed that the public forces and the intelligence bodies have not yet confirmed the reports about foreign mercenaries training armed groups in the middle Magdalena region.

M-19 Rebel Leader Pizarro Interviewed

PA1609182989 Paris AFP in Spanish 0026 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Caracas, 11 Sep (AFP)—The Colombian M-19 [19 April Movement] rebels, currently participating in a negotiating process with the government, called for "more radical" legal actions against drug traffickers in Colombia. This position was expressed by M-19 Commander Carlos Pizarro to a Venezuelan reporter from the DIARIO DE CARACAS in the Colombian town of Santo Domingo.

Pizarro added that "more radical legal actions, such as the strongest sentences being applied by other countries, should be adopted by Colombia."

He expressed dissatisfaction with the policies implemented by President Virgilio Barco to embark in the hard struggle against the drug czars. The M-19 commander stated: "We believe that Colombian justice cannot be substituted for a foreign one. We cannot imagine our soldiers controlling the use of drugs in New York."

"What happened was that the Colombian Government and the dominant classes opened the doors to drug traffickers and now they want to kick them out. The totality of the problem has to be addressed, and specific solutions must be found," he added.

Pizarro asserted that "the problem lies in the countries that consume drugs, and here (in Colombia) the drug-trafficking economy has to be changed to a formal one that allows peasants, who presently live off their coca plantations, to receive benefits."

Pizarro, 36, who is called "The Comanche" by his comrades, said to the correspondent that after 6 months of dialogue "a final agreement is starting to appear." The M-19 commander gave these statements in Santo Domingo, a location that the guerrillas have renamed "Peace Citadel."

He said that the M-19 movement will probably sign a peace agreement in 2 or 3 weeks. "We want to reach peace in a dignified manner and are not asking for a revolution to be decreed."

Pizarro noted that the agreement is starting to be accepted, with some difficulties, by the other guerrilla groups negotiating separatedly in the Uribe region.

"We want to stop Colombian society from breaking down totally. For so many years, Colombia has been at war for ill-defined reasons; the peace process is the only alternative to Beirutization," acknowledged Pizarro, referring to the destroyed capital of Lebanon.

He mantain that the M-19 "will not surrender its weapons. We are going to keep them and see what we do with them. Perhaps, we will build a monument with them." Pizarro stated that the M-19 has enough weapons "for them to be a kind of insurance."

To accept the pacification process, the M-19 has made a series of demands to "consolidate Colombian democracy." Among the demands being discussed are a secret ballot, the opening of political room for new emerging forces, and a national peace fund for development projects.

Pizarro told the newspaper correspondent that the sword that belonged to the greatest Venezuelan hero, Simon Bolivar, is the symbol of the M-19 movement. The rebels stole the sword in a bold action some years ago, and the M-19 commander said that "its return is part of the agreements."

Arms Shipment Found Destined for FARC

PA1609143389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Report by Hernando Corral]

[Text] The status of the investigation of an arms shipment discovered in Jamaica still remains unclear as a result of difficulties in the investigation which have delayed the process.

Despite the speculations regarding the destination of the weapons, the judge in charge of the case and the investigators do not doubt that the sophisticated weapons were purchased by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC. This certainty stems from

the fact that Alvaro Eduardo Benavides, one of the key persons involved in the case, as well as other people arrested in Jamaica are confirmed guerrillas. In addition, there are other related factors, which apparently are very convincing.

If this is the case, where did the investigation slip? Apparently the fault lies in the legal mechanisms. For example, former Judge Alvaro Medina Moreno traveled to Jamaica approximately 1 month ago to gather information on the case. However, no progress was made in the investigation because Jamaican authorities were busy with the Haitian president's visit. Judge Medina was trying to correct errors during the initial investigation, for instance instead of sending a criminal arraignment judge to conduct the preliminary investigations, a military officer was sent instead. The detainees were interrogated by Jamaican intelligence agents, without the presence of a Colombian legal authority. Another doubt expressed by the lawyers linked to the case is that if the crime began and ended in another country, Colombia has no jurisdiction in the investigations.

Notwithstanding these legal aspects, authoritative sources have said that there is no doubt that the weapons were destined for the FARC.

Venezuela

Asylum Granted to Defecting Cuban Captain

PA1609193689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1619 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Caracas, 16 Sep (DPA)—The Caracas press reported today that the captain of a Cuban merchant marine ship has been granted asylum by Venezuelan authorities after he abandoned the ship in Puerto Cabello.

Armando Diez, 26, arrived on 14 September in Puerto Cabello, some 200 km west of Caracas, on the cargo ship "Ana Segunda," which left Havana on 24 August and made port calls in Nicaragua and Panama.

From Puerto Cabello, Diez traveled to Caracas with $40 he had received as his pay, and attempted to contact other Cuban exiles. According to the newspaper EL NACIONAL, this is the first request for asylum of its kind to be made to Venezuela.

The "Ana Segunda" carried 14 crewmen, including 5 officials.

On 15 September, Interior Minister Alejandro Izaguirre met with Diez, members of the Cuban-Venezuelan Foundation for Democracy, which is made up of anti-communist Cuban exiles, and the Human Rights Defense Committee.

Figueredo Favors Diplomatic Solutions for Panama

PA1509152589 Madrid EFE In Spanish 0006 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Caracas, 14 Sep (EFE)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo said today that Venezuela favors diplomatic solutions instead of other sanctions to solve the Panamanian crisis.

Figueredo made these statements when asked about his opinion on the sanctions that the United States is planning to impose on Panama.

He said: "We believe that diplomacy is in order because we have to try to seek understandings that will allow us to return to normalcy."

Figueredo also referred to the speech that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez will deliver at the UN General Assembly on 26 October. He said it will be "very important." He said that the main points of President Perez' speech will be the foreign debt and Central America, with special emphasis on Panama.

He said that Perez' speech becomes all the more important "if viewed from the perspective of his position at the nonaligned summit meeting" in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.